TOP SECRET
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SECRET INTELLIGENCE SERVICE MI6
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
UNIA EUROPEJSKA RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA
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EUROPEAN UNION UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
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SECRET SERVICES

THE HIDDEN AGENTS FIGHTING SHADOW WARS THAT NOBODY CAN SEE

FROM THE MAKERS OF ALL ABOUT HISTORY

Digital Edition

FUTURE

FIRST EDITION

ESPIONAGE EXPLAINED

What do spies do, and how do they do it?

CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS

From undercover intelligence gathering to sabotage and assassination

INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES

The taskforces around the globe seeking out information and acting on it

Image: Alamy

SECRET SERVICES

Around the world, right now, security services and their agents are locked in battles you will never see. Some of them are bold and bloody – daring assassinations, mysterious murders, poisonings and precision bombings and all manner of unlikely "accidents". But many are subtler and far more dangerous. These are wars for information and emotion, for the knowledge of enemy military secrets or the destabilisation of enemy society through propaganda and fear. They're fought from inside unlikely-looking buildings and seen only through the eyes of screens and smartphones and the agents who wield them. These are weapons just as deadly as any spy gadget in the right hands – the hands of the secret services...

CONTENTS

6 **WHO ARE THE SECRET SERVICES?**

SECRET SERVICES

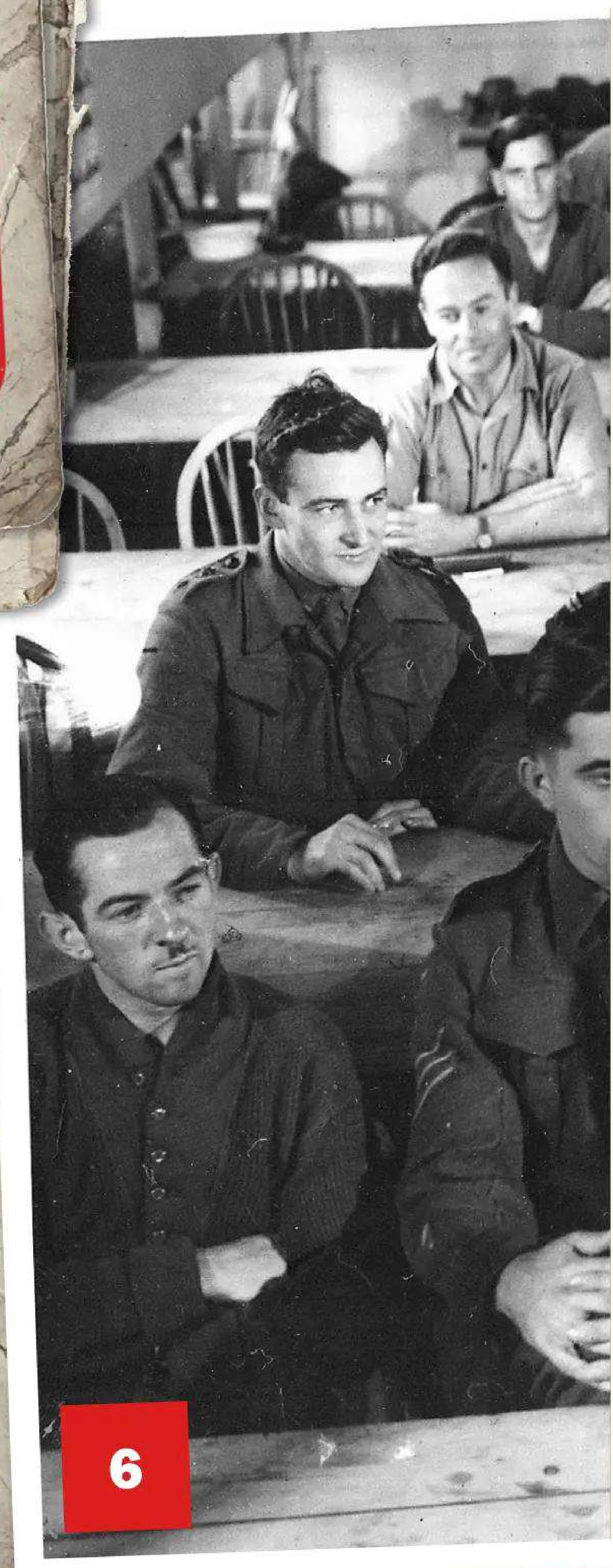
14 Defend the realm
18 For king and country
24 Worthy of trust and confidence
26 The presidential motorcade explained
28 Fidelity, bravery, integrity
32 Working in the shadows
38 SMERSH: Stalin's spy hunters
44 The sword and shield revisited
50 The successors to the KGB
52 Mosaad

CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS

58 Spies of Operation Citadel
66 Overlord declassified
76 How the Cold War was fought
82 The CIA versus communism

MYSTERIOUS MISSIONS

92 The disappearance of Commander Crabb
98 The mysterious man of Somerton Beach
106 Secret signals
112 Death in the Ice Valley
120 These thoughts are not your own
126 Deadly spy games
128 From Putin with love?



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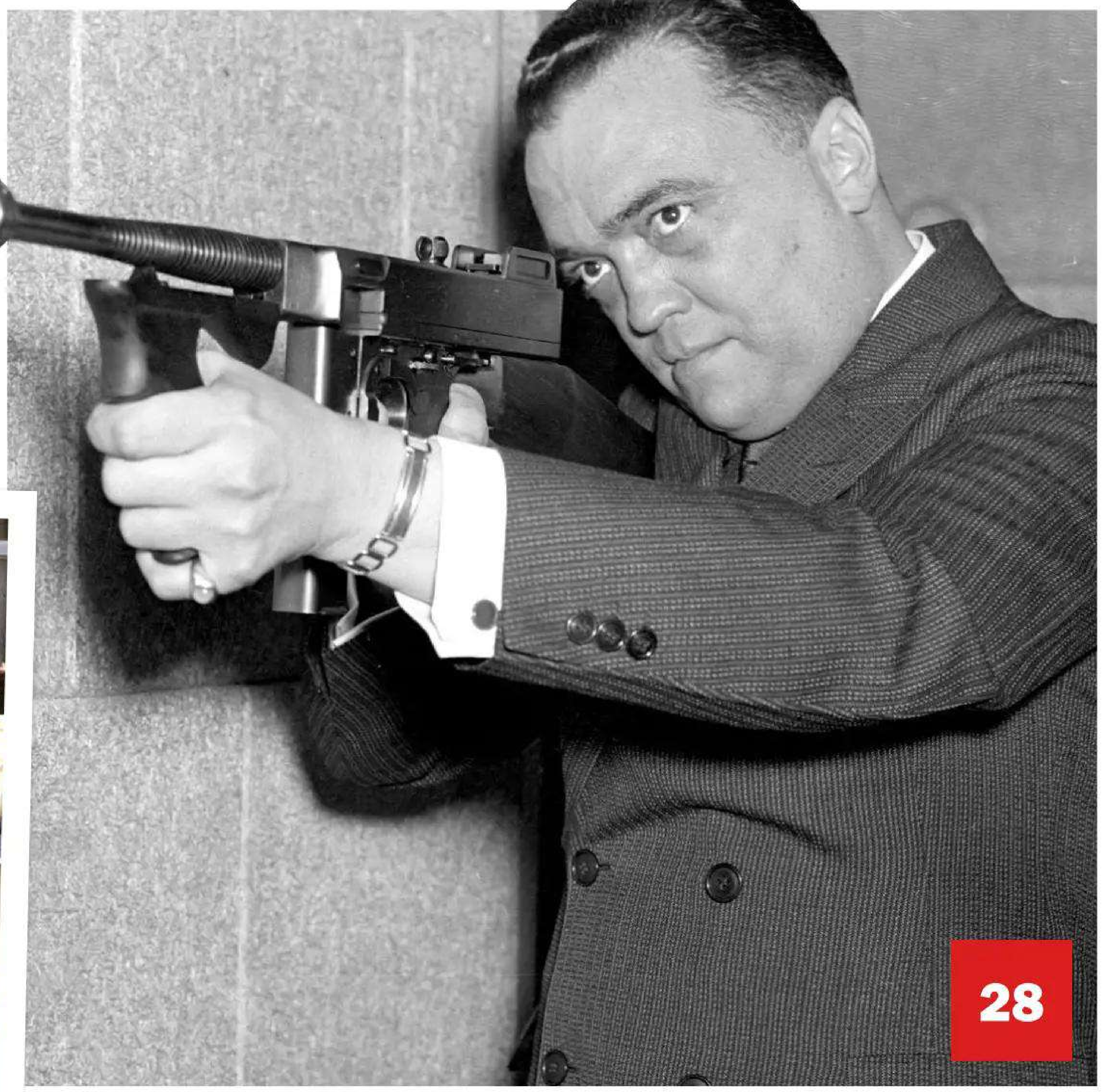

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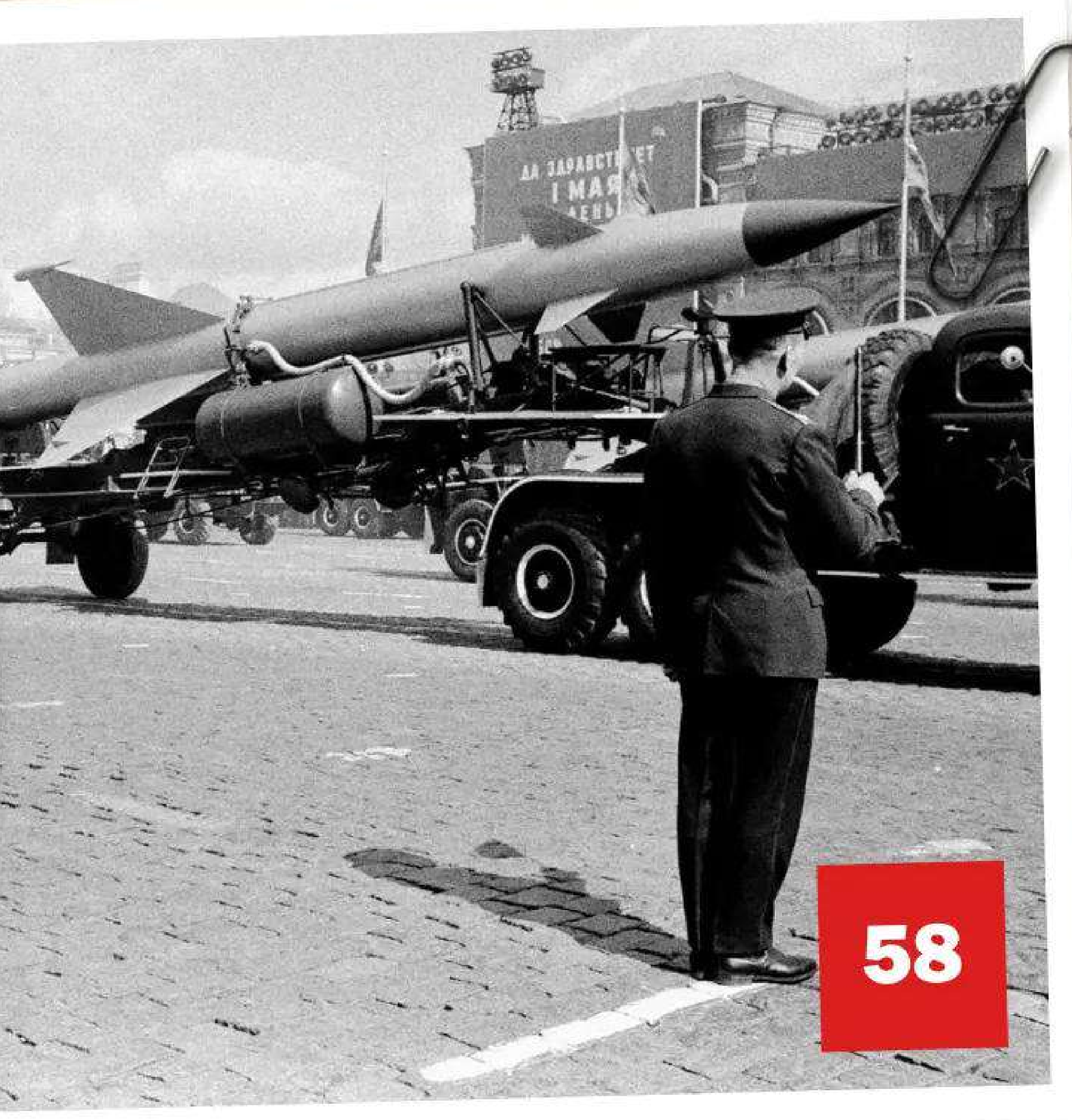
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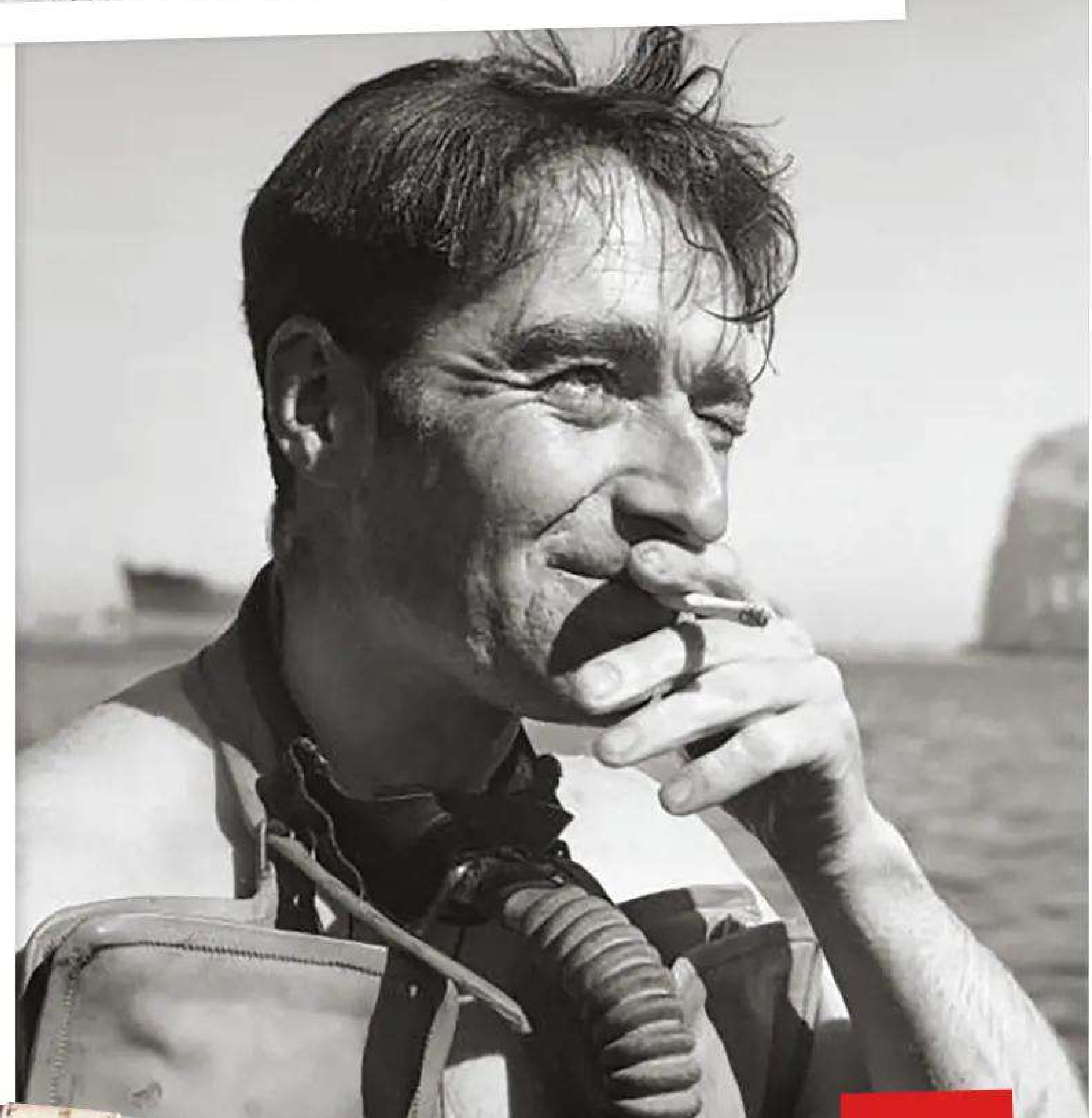
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WHO ARE THE SECRET SERVICES?

From ancient times to today, shadowy secret services have existed across the globe to protect nations or even infiltrate opponents. But where did these mysterious organisations begin?

WORDS **CATHERINE CURZON**

Today, espionage has become the stuff of fiction, with fast-paced thrillers depicting the secret services as exciting, dangerous organisations, shrouded in mystery and intrigue. Though they may seem rooted in the 21st century or perhaps the throwback glamour of the 1960s Cold War spy boom, secret services go back even further into history.

Back in the 4th century BCE, Sun Tzu's classic *Art of War* informed readers of the value of espionage in overcoming an opponent. With advice on the need not only for agents and double agents, but even false flag operations, this ancient advice is still relevant to spymasters today. Sun Tzu's thoughts on espionage would have been instantly familiar to the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans, who all employed spying methods, whilst King David IV of Georgia presided over a network of 12th century spies known as mstovaris, who were used for infiltration, espionage and intelligence gathering.

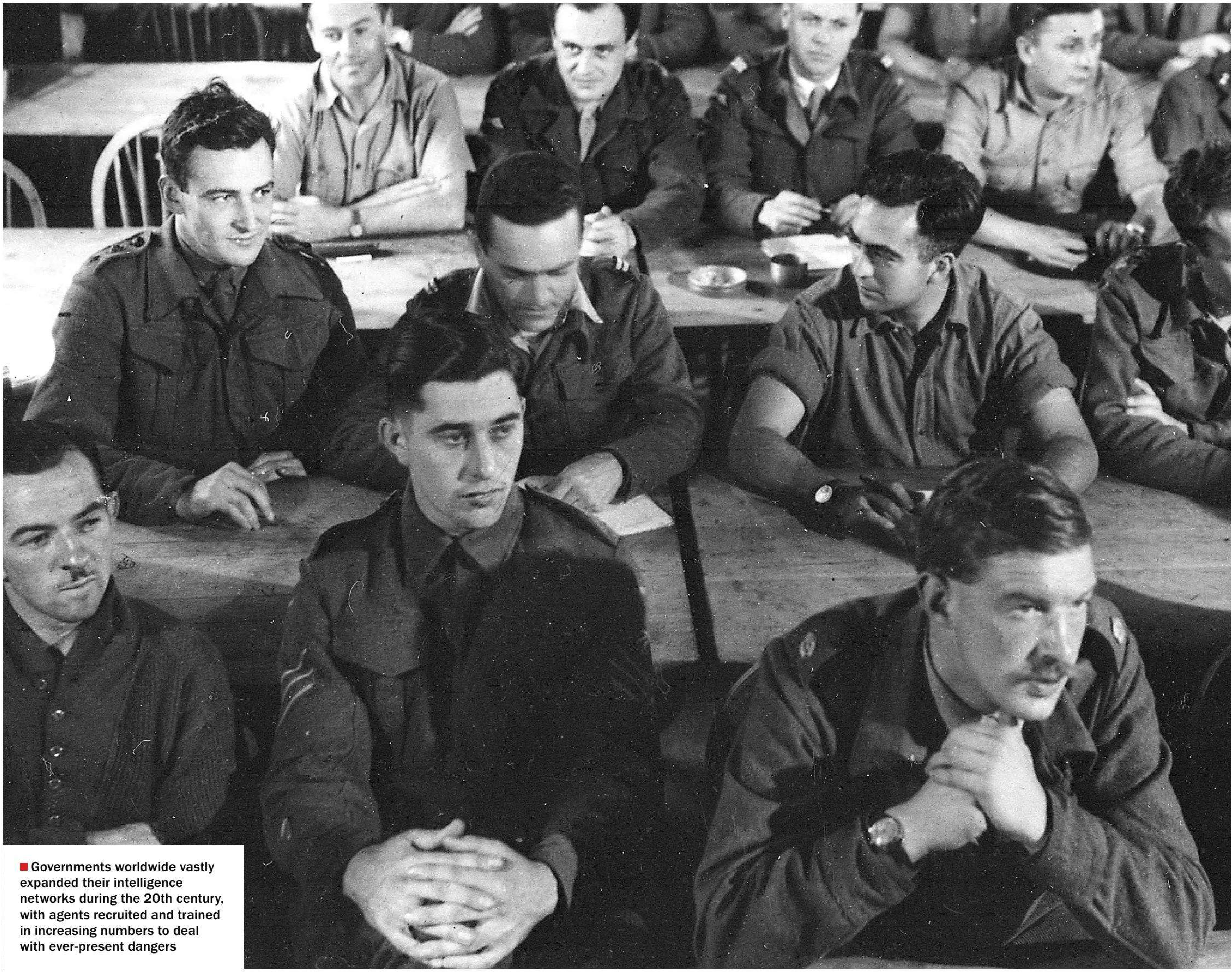
Whilst spying was a common tactic in the ancient world, recognisably modern methods of espionage were employed to great success by Francis Walsingham, Queen Elizabeth I's spymaster, who employed spies, cryptographers, forgers, a seal-breaker and a network of informers in his pursuit of Catholic conspirators, including overseas agents known as "intelligencers". Most famously, Walsingham intercepted and deciphered the letters of Mary Queen of Scots, uncovering plans to remove Elizabeth I in her favour. In Renaissance Venice, meanwhile, the Council of Ten enjoyed unrivalled authority over state security. They oversaw an intelligence network that was bolstered by the city's bocche dei leoni, or lion's mouths letterboxes. Citizens were invited to report anything suspicious by dropping a note into the letterbox, which would then be investigated if necessary.

Espionage played a major role in the American Revolution, as George Washington's spies, under the command of Major Benjamin Tallmadge, intercepted British plans and easily outfoxed their counterparts. The British, however, had their own successes during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars thanks to William Wickham, who headed up the fledgling secret service. Napoleon too had his own espionage network, which he used extensively when it came to French relations with Russia.

As the modern era dawned, intelligence and counterintelligence became more and more important to governments who wanted to protect not only their own interests, but learn the secrets of other nations. The British Secret Service Bureau was founded in 1909 to control the country's espionage activities and consisted of 19 intelligence departments, numbered MI1 to MI19. As a joint enterprise of the Foreign Office, the Admiralty and the War Office, Its remit was to monitor and gather information on foreign activities via espionage, whilst engaging in internal counter-espionage at home. Nor was it alone, as across the globe other countries were busy establishing their own intelligence services.

The race to assemble the most skilful and well-connected network gathered pace across the 20th century and, with the advent of World War II, national intelligence services worldwide found themselves challenged like never before.

"INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE BECAME MORE AND MORE IMPORTANT AS THE MODERN ERA DAWNED"

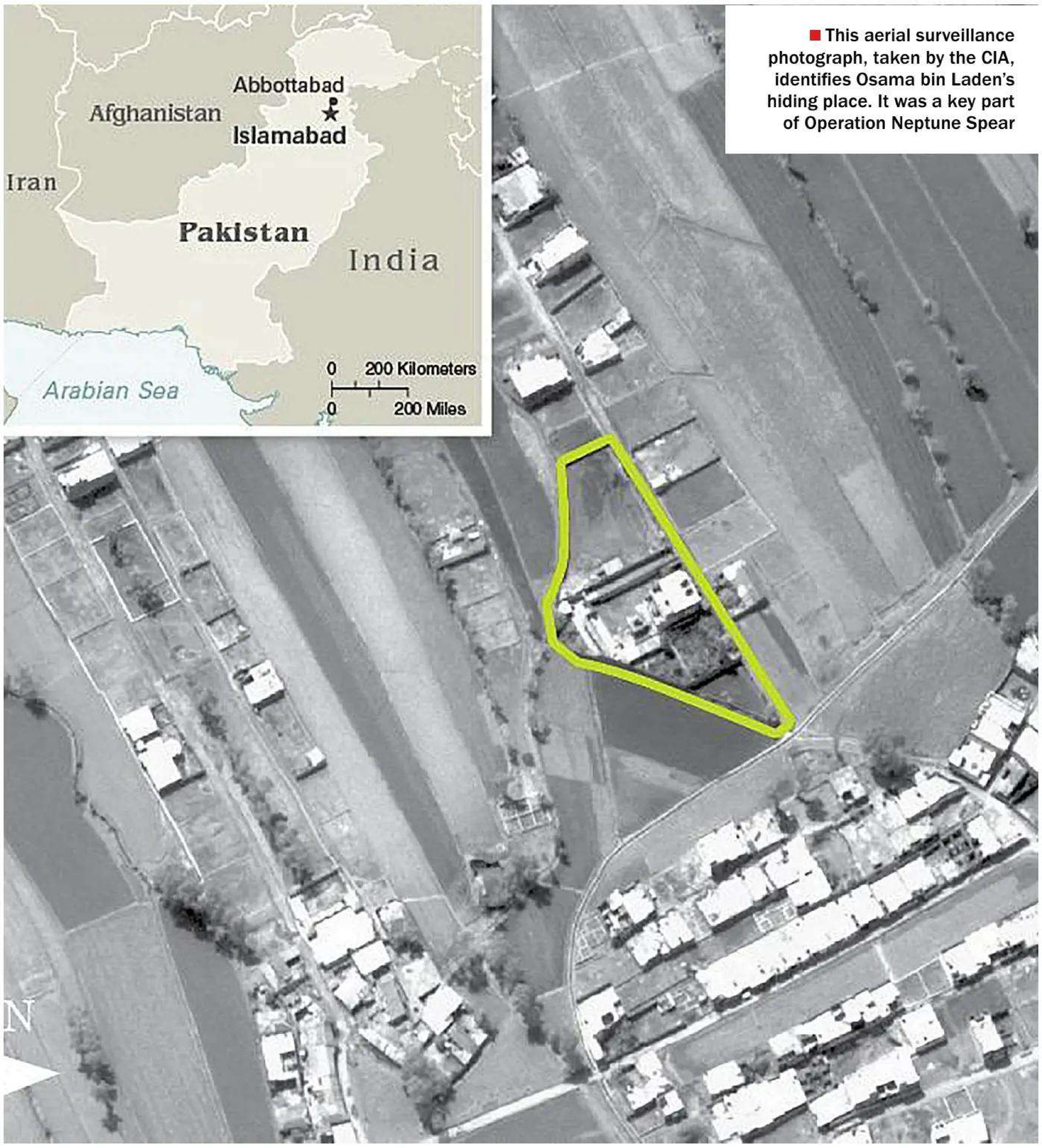


Governments worldwide vastly expanded their intelligence networks during the 20th century, with agents recruited and trained in increasing numbers to deal with ever-present dangers

THE VENLO INCIDENT

On 9 November 1939, members of the Nazi Party's security service, the Sicherheitsdienst (SD), arrested two British Secret Intelligence Service agents just feet from the German border, on the outskirts of the Dutch city of Venlo. The agents had believed that they had been meeting with German officers who were willing to act against Hitler, but in fact the whole plan was bring masterminded by the SD in order to uncover the British spies. The agents, Captain Sigismund Payne Best, and Major Richard Henry Stevens, were held in German captivity for the duration of the war whilst their contact in the Dutch Army, Dirk Klop, was mortally wounded. Hitler later used Klop's involvement to justify the German invasion of the Netherlands, whilst Himmler falsely implicated the British in the plot by Georg Elser to kill senior Nazis in the 1939 Munich Bürgerbräukeller bombing. In the wake of the incident, the British government formed the Special Operations Executive (SOE), which was specifically established to conduct espionage and sabotage in German-occupied Europe and to aid resistance movements. Under this single agency, the most dangerous of all missions could be coordinated, intelligence shared and, hopefully, agents would be protected from a similar fate to that which befell those at Venlo.

In a plot masterminded by SS intelligence chief Walter Schellenberg, Richard Henry Stevens was one of two British agents framed for an assassination attempt on Hitler



This aerial surveillance photograph, taken by the CIA, identifies Osama bin Laden's hiding place. It was a key part of Operation Neptune Spear

"SECURITY AGENCIES ARE ENGAGED IN VITAL THREAT MONITORING, COUNTER-SUBVERSION AND COUNTER-TERRORISM"

During the decades of the Cold War, espionage became big business on both sides of the Iron Curtain, as each tried to assess the threat from the other in the shadow of the nuclear bomb. Cooperation between countries became vital and proved invaluable when the UK and USA signed the UKUSA Agreement, which committed them to sharing signals intelligence. Known as the Five Eyes, this agreement also guaranteed cooperation with other nations and came into its own during the Cuban Missile Crisis, when Soviet naval positions intercepted by GCHQ were sent straight to the White House.

In addition to intelligence gathering and counter-espionage activities, security agencies are engaged in vital activities such as threat monitoring, counter-subversion and today more than ever, counter-terrorism. Whilst a great deal of the work of intelligence agencies consists of intelligence gathering, as well as the more intriguing business of actually spying and carrying out operations in the field, this is not where their duties begin and end. In more recent years, governments have become involved in asymmetric warfare, as states have been threatened by opponents such as insurgents or terrorists, who use unconventional tactics to compensate for their smaller military capabilities. In such cases, intelligence operatives have employed a variety of tactics to gain information on these groups, ranging from cyber measures to infiltration. Indeed, some agents have become trusted members of enemy groups and remained undetected for long periods of time, all the while feeding back valuable information back to their real masters.

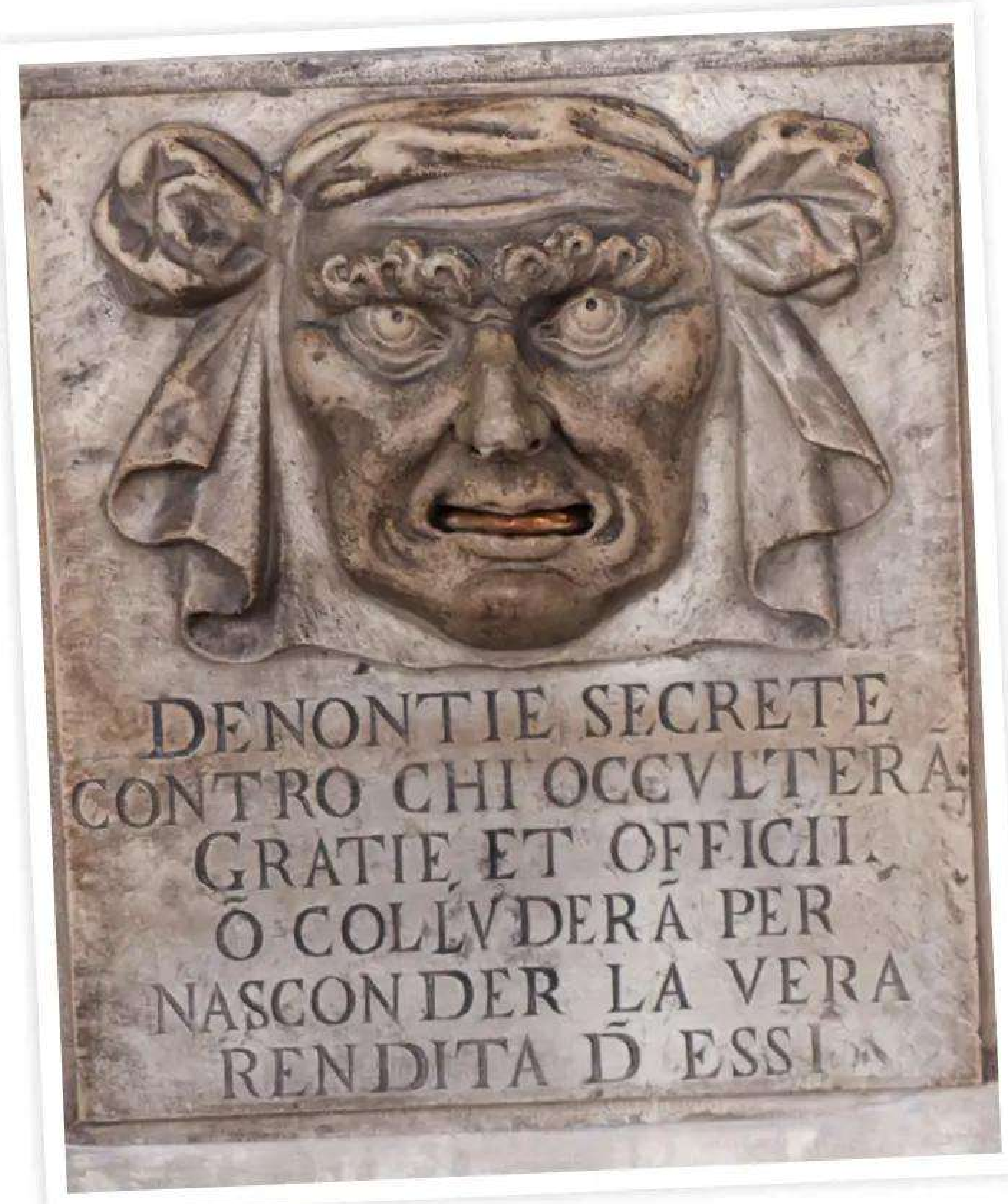
Such covert and undercover operations are a vital part of any intelligence network. Amongst the most famous covert operations are 1943's Operation Mincemeat, when British intelligence enacted an audacious plan to mislead Hitler about the UK's invasion plans. They dressed a dead body in a British uniform, hid fake documents regarding the supposed invasion of Greece on the corpse and dropped it into the sea off Spain. Upon its recovery and the delivery of the fraudulent papers to Berlin, Hitler believed he had gained vital intelligence on the Allied plans. In fact, he had fallen into their trap. Believing that the British would invade via Greece, not Sicily, Germany reinforced its forces there and neglected the Sicilian shores. Of course, the invasion came via Sicily, catching the Nazis unawares and speeding the liberation along.

In 1985, meanwhile, British agents smuggled KGB double agent Oleg Gordievsky out of the USSR after he had been interrogated by his fellow agents. The British, along with their wives and infant children, drove to a border checkpoint with Gordievsky hidden in the boot of their diplomatic car. When the guards deployed sniffer dogs, one of the women dropped her child's soiled nappy on the ground, which occupied the dogs just long

Thanks to the Special Relationship, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, Soviet naval positions were intercepted by the British and sent straight to the White House

enough for the Russians to wave the car and Gordievsky through.

Perhaps the most famous amongst recent covert operations is Operation Neptune Spear, a joint mission between the CIA and the Joint Special Operations command that resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden. Whilst much of the operation remains classified, it was so extensive and costly that the CIA had to request Congress approval to spend tens of millions of dollars on it. Using a network of agents and a long-term stakeout, once the US was certain about their intelligence findings, a raid was rehearsed in Nevada before it was finally carried out on 2 May 2011, resulting in the killing of the world's most wanted man.



Any Venetian citizens who wanted to anonymously report suspicious behaviour could do so by dropping a note into one of the city's "lion's mouth" letterboxes

"ASSASSINATIONS ARE NOT COMMONPLACE, BUT MANY BELIEVE THEY ARE A SHADOWY REALITY OF THE WORLD OF ESPIONAGE"

Assassinations such as this are not commonplace, but many believe that they are a shadowy reality of the world of espionage and governments across the world have been connected to the killings of not only their opponents, but their own people. In 2006, defector and former officer of the Russian Federal Security Service, Alexander Litvinenko, fell ill in London as a result of a fatal dose of radionuclide polonium-210. Before his death, Litvinenko accused Vladimir Putin of ordering his assassination, an accusation that was later echoed during an official British enquiry. Russia was later implicated in a similar plot when Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, survived an attempt to poison them in Salisbury. The British government accused Russia of attempted murder, a charge that the US and many EU states supported. Unsurprisingly, Russia hotly denied the accusation.

As the intelligence field has progressed, psychological operations, known as PSYOP, have become a source of fascination to the public. These were pioneered by the United States and involve influencing the attitudes and behaviour of anything from an individual to a whole nation. Some of these techniques might be propaganda including verbal communication, social media or broadcasts and literature, intended to reduce the enemy's will to fight by attacking its morale. The type of PSYOP is decided by one of three colours: white, denoting an official government communication; grey, which denotes a communication from a deliberately ambiguous source, with the involvement of the government concealed; and black, which conceals the government's involvement and appears to come from a hostile source..

Connected to psychological operations by a thin thread and little discussed by the US government is something altogether more bizarre. In recent decades, reports have emerged of a 1970s US programme that used paranormal means to explore new intelligence frontiers. Known as the Stargate Project, this US Army programme carried out experiments with remote viewing and even psychics. Whilst the government has ceased to fund these experiments, self-proclaimed clairvoyants have regaled the public with tales of supposed success stories that they claim the US government will not publicise.

As the world changes, espionage and intelligence is changing with it. The lion's mouth letterboxes may be no more but new cyber threats now face the world, alongside more traditional terrors. Each country will respond to these evolving dangers in its own way and the public will glimpse only a fraction of the work going on. Yet whilst the security agencies must work without public exposure they are as busy as ever gathering information, protecting their nations and defending the realm that they serve.

Image source: Getty Images, Alamy, Shutterstock, Wiki

SECRET SERVICES AROUND THE WORLD

ACROSS THE WORLD, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCIES WORK IN THE INTERESTS OF THEIR STATE; SOME ARE FAMOUS, WHILST OTHERS HAVE BECOME NOTORIOUS

NAME

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS HEADQUARTERS (GCHQ)

COUNTRY **United Kingdom**

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES **Intelligence gathering, signals analysis, communication security, cyber security**

From its HQ at The Doughnut in leafy Cheltenham, GCHQ is responsible for providing Signals Intelligence and information assurance to the government of the UK. Initially established as the Government Code and Cypher School in 1919, GCHQ assumed its current name in 1946, five years after its agents at Bletchley Park had cracked the German Enigma code. Today, GCHQ has two main sections: the Composite Signals Organisation, responsible for information gathering, and the National Cyber Security Centre, responsible for ensuring the security of British communications. Using cutting-edge technology as well as talented personnel, GCHQ works in the fields of counter-terrorism, cyber security, organised crime and defence support, ensuring that Great Britain enjoys a strategic advantage over those who seek to do it harm.

NAME

DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (DIA)

COUNTRY **United States of America**

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES **Foreign intelligence gathering, intelligence integration, advice to policymakers**

Established in 1961 under President Kennedy as part of the Department of Defence and the United States Intelligence Community, the DIA is responsible for advising policymakers about the capabilities and intentions of foreign powers and other groups. It does so via the collection and analysis of intelligence relating to everything from political and economic matters to geographical intelligence, and provides approximately 25 per cent of the intelligence material that is presented to the President of the United States in the top-secret Daily Brief, which the president receives every morning. Employees of the DIA are based all over the world and engage in intelligence gathering globally; the agency was central to intelligence in the Cold War and was expanded significantly and sometimes controversially in the wake of the September 11 attacks. It has its headquarters in Washington DC and its employees are based at more than 140 embassies across the globe.

NAME

MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY (MSS)

COUNTRY **North Korea**

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES **Domestic intelligence gathering, protection services, domestic security**

Known by its nickname of North Korea's Thought Police, the MSS of the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea is one of the most fearsome and feared secret police forces in the world. It is directly answerable to the country's Supreme Leader and works alongside the Supreme Guard Command to provide security to officials and VIPs both at home and abroad. Established in 1973, the MSS is responsible for the investigation of economic and political crimes in North Korea, with particular focus on apparent crimes against the ruling family. As well as these duties, MSS agents are involved in the running of concentration camps and prisons, as well as other, more covert activities. Whilst the MSS monitors the people of North Korea, in 2021 Kim Jong Un personally requested that residents of the Sino-North Korean border regions be exempt from surveillance, amid fears that excessive intelligence gathering was leading to a worrying increase in public ill-feeling.

NAME

DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL SECURITY (DGSE)

COUNTRY **France**

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES **Foreign intelligence gathering, paramilitary operations, counterintelligence**

Britain has MI6, America the CIA and France has the DGSE, dedicated to the safeguarding of national security though a range of methods extending from the most routine intelligence gathering to paramilitary operations overseas and economic espionage. Amongst its divisions is the Action Division, which is responsible for planning and executing clandestine operations overseas and simulating potential attacks at home in order to test the security of French nuclear and military installations. Action Division specialises in black operations and its overseas activities have included the liberation of French hostages from Iraq, and even the assassination of terrorist leaders The DGSE refers to its four key values as LEDA. This stands for Loyalty, Exigence, Discretion and Adaptability, and these values have been embedded in the service since its inception in 1943.

NAME

MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY (MSS)

COUNTRY **China**

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES **Domestic and foreign intelligence gathering, domestic surveillance, counterintelligence, domestic security**

In the People's Republic of China, responsibility for intelligence and counterintelligence falls to the MSS, which is also charged with ensuring the honour of the Chinese Communist Party. The MSS is one of the world's most secretive and extensive intelligence agencies and its influence stretches from the highest echelons of central government down, infiltrating every strata of society. The full scope of the Ministry of State Security's remit is still a closely guarded secret, but it has been known to carry our not only domestic operations but covert activities on what it refers to as the "Hidden Front". On Chinese soil, the MSS oversees the actions of the State Security Police, which is infamous for issuing "an invitation to tea"(a polite code for arrest and interrogation). Overseas, the MSS carries out extensive espionage, including operations against Chinese dissidents that are sometimes carried out on foreign soil.

NAME

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS WING (R&AW)

COUNTRY **India**

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES **Foreign intelligence gathering, intelligence integration, advice to policymakers**

Established in 1968, the Research and Analysis Wing is India's foreign intelligence agency. It has a wide remit, encompassing everything from intelligence gathering to counter-terrorist measures and advising policymakers in order to maximise India's foreign interests. R&AW has no accountability to the people of India but is answerable only to the prime minister, something that has caused controversy. Today, the R&AW closely monitors countries whose activities have a direct bearing on Indian national security and actively works to influence both foreign governments and public opinion of India, whilst also carrying out covert operations to protect national interests. R&AW has stations overseas that specialise in the collection of political, military, scientific and economic intelligence and it passed information to the West regarding over 100 terrorist training camps operating in Afghanistan and Pakistan in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

SECRET SERVICES

Explore some of the agencies tasked with protecting national security through intelligence-gathering and espionage

Image: Getty Images

From its headquarters in London, the Security Service oversees the safety and security of the United Kingdom in a changing and dangerous world

DEFEND THE REALM

For more than 100 years, the Security Service, better known as MI5, has played a vital role in the defence and protection of the UK

WORDS **CATHERINE CURZON**

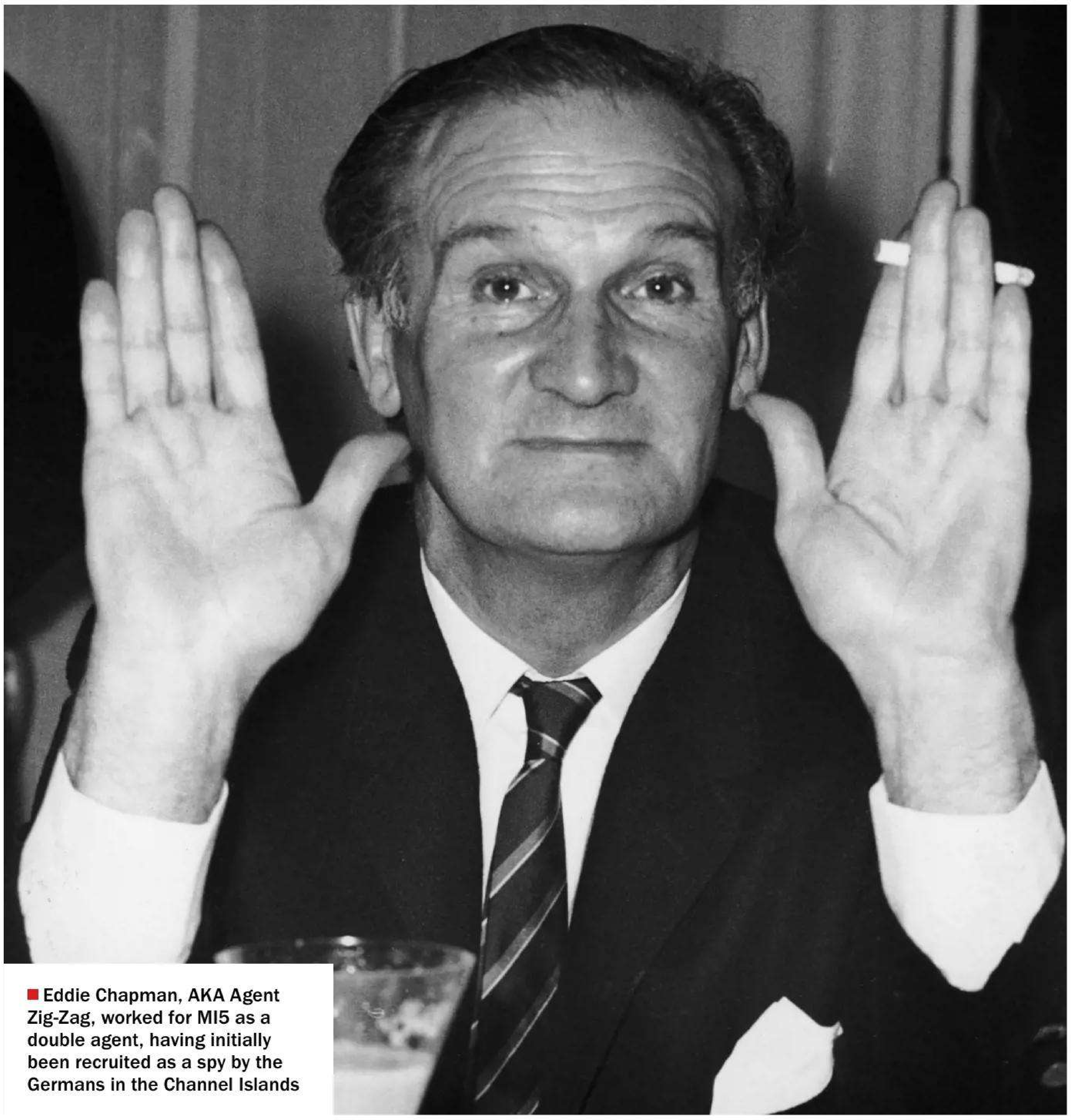
MI5, known to some by its official title of the Security Service and to those in the know simply as Box, after its wartime address of Box 500, is the United Kingdom's domestic security and counter-intelligence agency. It exists to protect economic interests, parliamentary democracy and to work covertly to counter the threat of espionage and terrorist activities.

MI5 is under the authority of the Home Secretary and all of its operations are required to be lawful and proportionate, though there are mechanisms to allow operatives to behave in an illegal manner, wherever absolutely necessary. Because of the sensitive nature of its work, it is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Security Service is answerable to a parliamentary committee personally appointed by the prime minister, and is subject to checks and balances by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner and the Investigatory Powers Tribunal. Its employees are bound by the Official Secrets Act and, contrary to what you might think, do not have a license to kill. In exceptional circumstances, however, they can be authorised to carry out activity that would otherwise be considered criminal. In 1989, the Security Service Act guaranteed that the Service would not act in the interests of any political party. MI5 is committed to protecting democracy, but cannot influence it; it has extensive powers to investigate any group or individual who is considered a potential threat to the security of the United Kingdom.

The roots of the Security Service can be found in the Secret Service Bureau, which was founded in October 1909. At its inception it had only two officers, Commander Mansfield Cumming, later to become the first head of MI6, and Captain, later Major General, Vernon Kell, eventually the first head of MI5. Kell had enjoyed a long and successful career with the South Staffordshire Regiment before taking a role as an intelligence analyst at the War Office. The two men divided the fledgling agency between themselves, with Cumming taking responsibility for foreign intelligence and Kell for domestic counter-intelligence. With the encouragement of then then Home Secretary Winston Churchill, the organisation was focused on uncovering an extensive German spy network which was working for German Naval Intelligence, pursuing victory in an increasingly heated arms race.

At the outbreak of World War I in August 1914, Kell's office comprised 16 staff, but despite its humble size, the agency proved exceptionally competent at fulfilling its brief, ably identifying the agents sent from Germany to infiltrate Great Britain. Thanks to Kell's skills and finely-tuned instinct, his agency was enormously successful in dismantling the German spy network, much to the frustration of the Kaiser in Germany. As the war went on, the staff under Kell's command ballooned to more than 800, all of them

"THEY CAN BE AUTHORISED TO CARRY OUT ACTIVITY THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE CONSIDERED CRIMINAL"



Eddie Chapman, AKA Agent Zig-Zag, worked for MI5 as a double agent, having initially been recruited as a spy by the Germans in the Channel Islands

dedicated to keeping the United Kingdom safe from enemy infiltration.

Though MI5 had been invaluable to the British war effort, less than a decade after hostilities ceased, the agency found itself the victim of aggressive cutbacks. With both MI6 and Special Branch nipping at its heels, it saw its staff reduced to just 35 and faced an unsuccessful takeover bid by Admiral Sir Hugh Sinclair, who had succeeded Cumming as the head of MI6. However, MI5 was thrust back into the spotlight when it was revealed that Soviet agents had infiltrated Special Branch and, in 1931, full responsibility for counter-subversion was given to MI5. With this came a new official title: the Security Service.

As World War II approached, MI5's staffing numbers failed to keep up and the service was overwhelmed by the demands placed on it. Kell was blamed for the agency's lack of successes and Prime Minister Winston Churchill had him dismissed in 1940, bringing his three-decade career as the head of the Security Service to an end. When he left, he enjoyed the honour of being the longest serving head of any British government department during the 20th century. His successor in the position was Brigadier Oswald Harker, who was swiftly replaced within the year by Sir David Petrie, though he remained with the service as Deputy Director General. Petrie proved to be the ideal candidate for the newly evolving role; under his direction, the service was completely reorganised and once again excelled when faced with the demands of wartime. This time enemy agents weren't only arrested, but were considered as potential candidates for the Double Cross System, by which they would become double agents, working for the British against their homelands.

Fuelled by the war, once peace came the Security Service expanded into overseas offices, in order to monitor any potential threats from abroad. The chance to see the world was to prove a major draw for would-be agents, who staffed bureaus on different continents and reported back to London.

With peacetime came a new source of concern, this one in the shape of Soviet Russia and the advent of the Cold War. Yet the headaches to the service came not from the USSR but at home, as it came into conflict with the government, who considered that the threat to industry by subversive homegrown elements was not being taken seriously. Indeed, Prime Minister Harold Wilson, suffering from the illness that would eventually force his resignation, came to suspect that MI5 itself was conspiring against him and had placed bugs throughout his home. The Service also saw Margaret Thatcher's fears of industrial subversion from miners' unions and leaders during the miner's strike as overblown. By the end of the miners' strike in 1985, MI5 was convinced that the possibility of such subversion was negligible and significantly reduced its work on counter-subversion.

As the Cold War reached its thaw and domestic subversion became an ever less likely threat, MI5 began to shift its focus from counter-espionage to counter-terrorism. Its focus fell on threats from Northern Ireland and the Middle East, with the Brighton bombing and the murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher outside the Libyan Embassy in London drawing attention to the new dangers that faced the United Kingdom. In 1984, MI5 set up a directorate that would deal exclusively with counter-terrorism, divided equally between Northern Ireland and overseas, particular Colonel Gaddafi's Libya.

For most of the 1990s, the focus at MI5 remained on the Provisional IRA and Middle Eastern state-sponsored terrorism, with attention shifting from the Gaddafi regime to Iran. Towards the end of the decade, however, a new threat emerged in the shape of Al Qaida and its leader, Osama bin Laden. This took on a particular urgency in the wake of the attacks on 11 September 2001. Two years later, Operation CREVICE uncovered a large-scale Islamist conspiracy to bomb multiple targets in the UK and resulted in numerous arrests. It was the largest counter-terrorist operation

> “MI5 HAS NOT BEEN WITHOUT ITS SCANDALS, INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY”

Vernon Kell, the first chief of MI5, led the service to a series of impressive triumphs in World War I

Incidents such as the Brighton bombing in 1984 were proof of the domestic threat posed by the IRA, whilst operations overseas concentrated on the Libyan regime

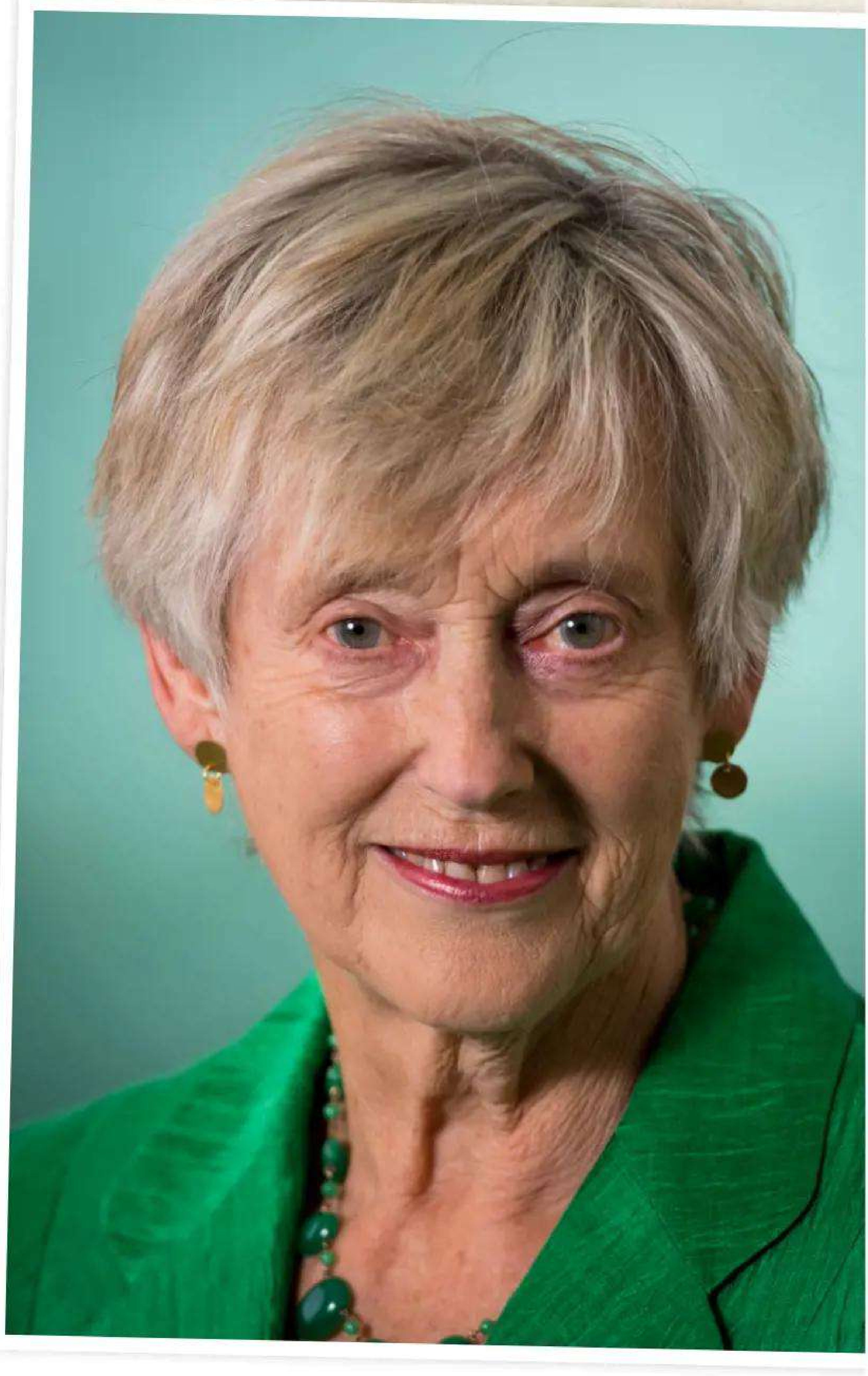
ever undertaken in the United Kingdom and represented a significant victory in the battle against extremism. This was followed in 2004 by Operation RHYME, which uncovered a series of planned attacks intended to culminate in a radioactive attack. Two years later MI5 prevented yet another large-scale terrorist attack, uncovering a conspiracy by Al Qaida to place suicide bombers on seven planes bound from Heathrow to the United States. Those responsible were arrested and convicted.

Throughout its long and distinguished history, MI5 has not been without its scandals, including allegations of state-approved criminal activity, collusion in torture and, more recently, domestic abuse and political extremism. It has at times found itself under the spotlight from the public, journalists and politicians alike, and has been called upon to defend some of its actions.

Today, more than a century after it was first established, the Security Service occupies a unique and important position in the security of the United Kingdom. From its headquarters at Thames House in London to its regional offices across the UK and its far-flung offices overseas, MI5 continues to work against terrorism, to identify and counter threats to the state and citizens and to offer protective security services to organisations, with the National Protective Security Authority, established in 2023, offering guidance and training in the security of technology and research. As the world changes, the Security Service has shown itself to be an agile and reactive organisation, constantly shifting its focus to counter the new threats facing the United Kingdom today. In the future, it will continue to evolve to meet the challenges of a changing and sometimes dangerous world.

DAME STELLA RIMINGTON

When Stella Rimington was appointed as Director General of MI5 in 1992, she became the first woman to hold that prestigious office. She was also the first director general of the service whose name was made public, as well as the first to pose for press photographs, after newspapers published covert snaps of her. Rimington began her career in the service in 1967, when she took an office job at the High Commission in India, where her husband was employed. The job was actually in the MI5 office, marking her entry into the service, and upon her return to the UK, Rimington secured another role with the Security Service in London. Rimington rose through the ranks, working in counter-espionage, counter-subversion and counter-terrorism. She was promoted to Deputy Director General in 1990 and, in 1991, made the first friendly contact between the British Security Service and the KGB. Upon her return from that historic trip to Moscow, she was promoted to Director General, an appointment that served as the inspiration for Judi Dench's portrayal of M in the James Bond series. Rimington held the position until 1996; upon her retirement, she was made a Dame.



Dame Stella Rimington made history as the first female head of MI5, as well as the first Director General to be publicly identified

Images, Alamy, Getty, Shutterstock

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

For a century Britain's secret service has tackled its government's enemies in a clandestine conflict waged by an army of spies…

HONI … PENSE
DIEU ET
MON DROIT

> “BY EARLY 1941, MI6 CODEBREAKERS AT BLETCHLEY PARK IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HAD CRACKED GERMANY’S SUPPOSEDLY IMPREGNABLE ENIGMA CODE”

On Friday 1 October 1909, a man in a tweed suit opened the door to a nondescript office above some shops at 64 Victoria Street, Westminster. From the window he would have seen the Army & Navy department store opposite, and the streets below busy with Londoners going about their business, oblivious to the multitude of infinitesimal events that were conspiring to plunge their city, and indeed their country, into the most violent period in human history. Had anyone asked, the man in the suit would have replied that his name was Mr Drew, and that the office he’d just started renting was to run his private detective agency from.

Mr Drew’s real name was Captain Mansfield Smith-Cumming. And although he was in the detection business it was not as a PI but as head of the British government’s newly formed Secret Service Bureau (SSB), set up to gather information about Imperial Germany’s growing military threat. An extraordinary individual, Cumming could have stepped straight out of the pages of a Conan Doyle mystey. A former pirate hunter he’d later lose his leg in a car wreck which, according to the rumours, he’d only managed to escape from after amputating the limb himself. Not that the accident made Cumming any more cautious, in fact he had special number plates fitted to his Rolls Royce so he could speed through London’s streets without getting stopped by police. The wooden leg he went on to wear, meanwhile, was used to test unsuspecting potential recruits. During the course of an interview Cumming would suddenly stab at it with a penknife in order to gauge their reaction.

By the outbreak of the First World War, SSB had changed its name to MI6 and moved into the grander surroundings of Whitehall, less than a kilometre from the Houses of Parliament – although few in government knew of the department’s existence. The brass plaque on the door of the new offices at 2 Whitehall Court read Rasen, Falcon & Co. The name – just bland enough to deter curiosity – was registered as an import-export business and was another one of Cumming’s fronts.

As the war against the kaiser’s Germany raged on, MI6 struggled, and although it managed to set up a successful spy network in occupied Europe and even Russia, it failed to establish anything in Germany itself. It was an inauspicious start – and things were about to get much worse.

When peace came in 1918, much of the old European order had fallen away and what remained of it now faced new challenges. The British Empire was not immune and in 1919, the Irish Republican Army (IRA) launched a campaign to free Ireland from British rule. Cumming was ordered to organise an espionage unit to help fight the IRA. Based on the networks he’d established across occupied Europe during the war, he called this new force the Dublin District Special Branch (DDSB) and filled its ranks with some of his best agents. In Ireland, however, they would meet their match.

On 21 November 1920 the IRA’s counterintelligence branch under the leadership of Michael Collins launched an operation against the DDSB. Within just a few bloody hours, 14 of Cumming’s agents were dead. Those who’d survived this mass hit were withdrawn immediately. It remains the single greatest disaster in the history of the British secret service but MI6 would go on to learn much from this harsh lesson.

Two years later, shortly before he was due to retire, Cumming died. The organisation he’d worked so hard to establish, however, would now flourish. In 1926, MI6 again moved home, this time to a building opposite St James’ Park tube station in central London. Here it continued to grow quickly, becoming ever-more sophisticated, recruiting increasing numbers of agents and mounting covert operations abroad. Within 14 years, MI6 had grown into a spy network that stretched across the world – a network that would play a key role in the coming war.

MI6 takes on the Nazis

On 1 September 1939, the German army invaded Poland, triggering World War II. Within months Nazi forces had swept through most of western Europe. By July 1940, Britain was cut off from the continent, besieged by Germany, and alone in its struggle against Hitler. Prime Minister Winston Churchill realised that for Britain to survive it would need to fight dirty, and MI6 was seen as the perfect weapon for such a fight. MI6 now joined forces with government propaganda and research departments to form the Special Operations Executive (SOE) whose role it was in Churchill’s words, “to set Europe ablaze”. The guerrilla tactics and methods the SOE adopted – sabotage, assassination and counterintelligence – were all ones MI6 had first encountered to their detriment in Ireland 20 years before. And they were to prove just as effective against the Nazis.

Most of the agents recruited to the SOE were foreigners who’d fled mainland Europe. These men and women had language skills and an intimate knowledge of occupied territories that made them invaluable assets. All were united in their desire to see their homelands liberated, too, so were also highly motivated, trustworthy and crucially, prepared to take extraordinary risks to free their homelands.

As with other MI6 agents, SOE operatives were prepared thoroughly for their mission. Before being parachuted into Nazi-occupied Europe, they underwent months of intensive commando training. They were taught a range of self-defence skills, with a variety of small arms ranging from sub-machine guns and silenced pistols to daggers. They were also taught to kill with their bare hands. Sabotage techniques using high explosives were on the curriculum too, as was navigation, the art of deception and the use of coded transmissions. As well as fighting a hugely

MI6 VERSUS JAMES BOND

THE REAL-LIFE INSPIRATIONS BEHIND IAN FLEMING’S FAMOUS FICTIONAL SPY AND THE STORIES THAT SPARKED A BOOK AND FILM FRANCHISE

Ian Fleming’s James Bond storieshave played a unique role in defining the public image of MI6, portraying a glamorous world of cocktails, car chases and sharp-suited spies.

In reality, however, MI6’s agent can’t afford to stand out as much as Fleming’s flamboyant creation. Agents are not issued – as James Bond famously was – with a licence to kill. Espionage is intended to violate the laws of the country a spy’s operating in, making the idea of legal permission (a licence) irrelevant. Of course, that isn’t to say MI6 agents haven’t killed people. The gadgets that have popularised the Bond stories do have a basis in truth, however. Over the years exploding rats, bugging devices and pens that fires tear gas have all emerged from MI6’s research and development division which Fleming named Q Branch. Just like the books, the head of this division in MI6 really is known as Q, which stands for quartermaster. MI6’s founder Mansfield Cumming was also known by a single letter, ‘C’. The codename originally derived from his surname but used by every head of MI6 since, with the ‘C’ standing for chief. In the Bond stories, of course, the equivalent character is named ‘M’ – could this be an abbreivation for ‘Mansfield’?

MI6'S MOST AMAZING MISSIONS

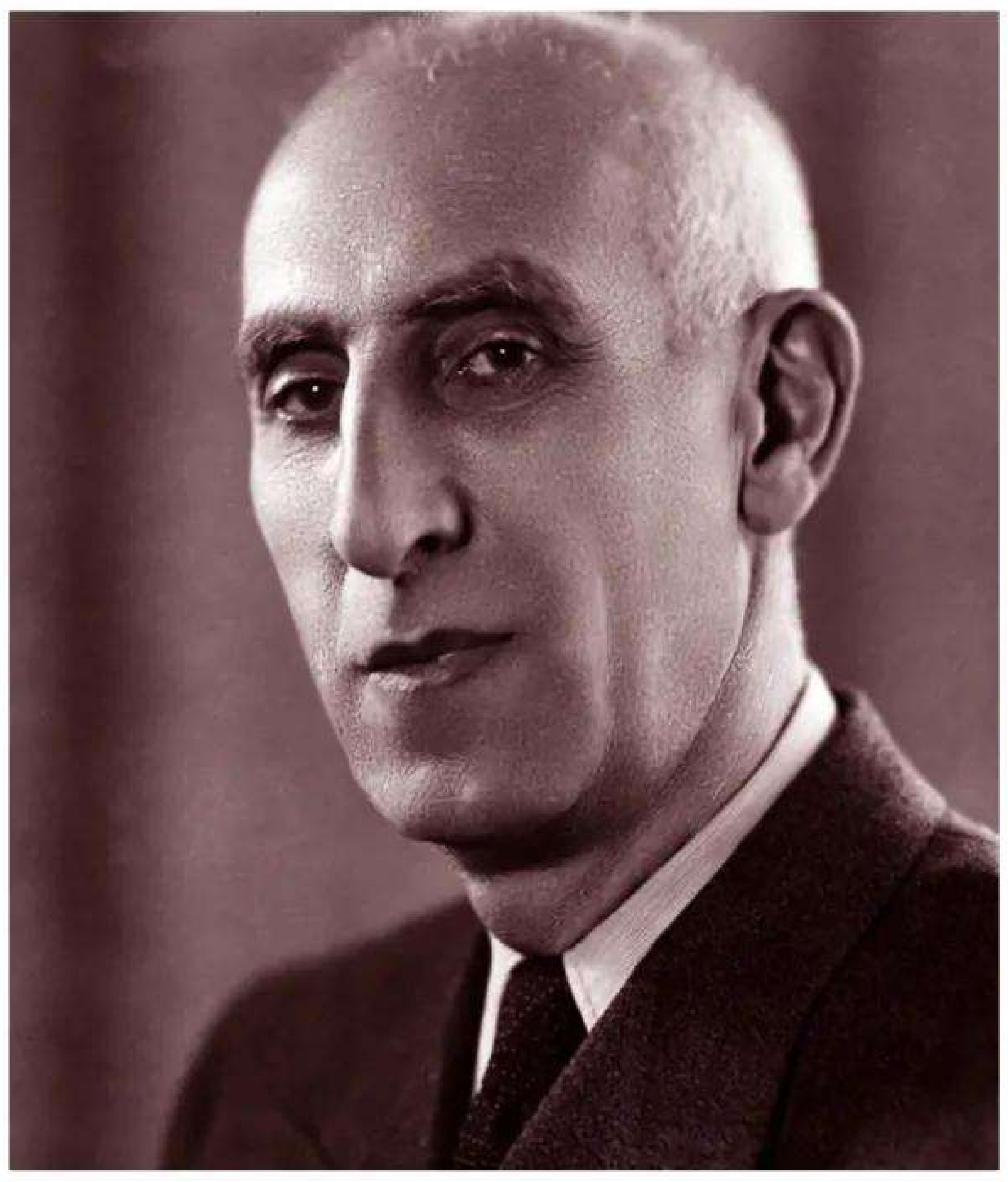
THE SECRET ASSIGNMENTS THAT PREVENTED NUCLEAR BOMBS AND TRACKED DOWN DICTATORS

THE ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW LENIN – 1918

In March 1918, Sidney Reilly arrived in Moscow to organise a coup against Lenin's Bolshevik government. However, Lenin was wounded by a would-be assassin, sparking a massive clampdown. The mission was aborted and Reilly escaped. He returned in 1925 to try again but was captured and killed. Mystery continues to swirl around the Russian-born agent: who was he really?

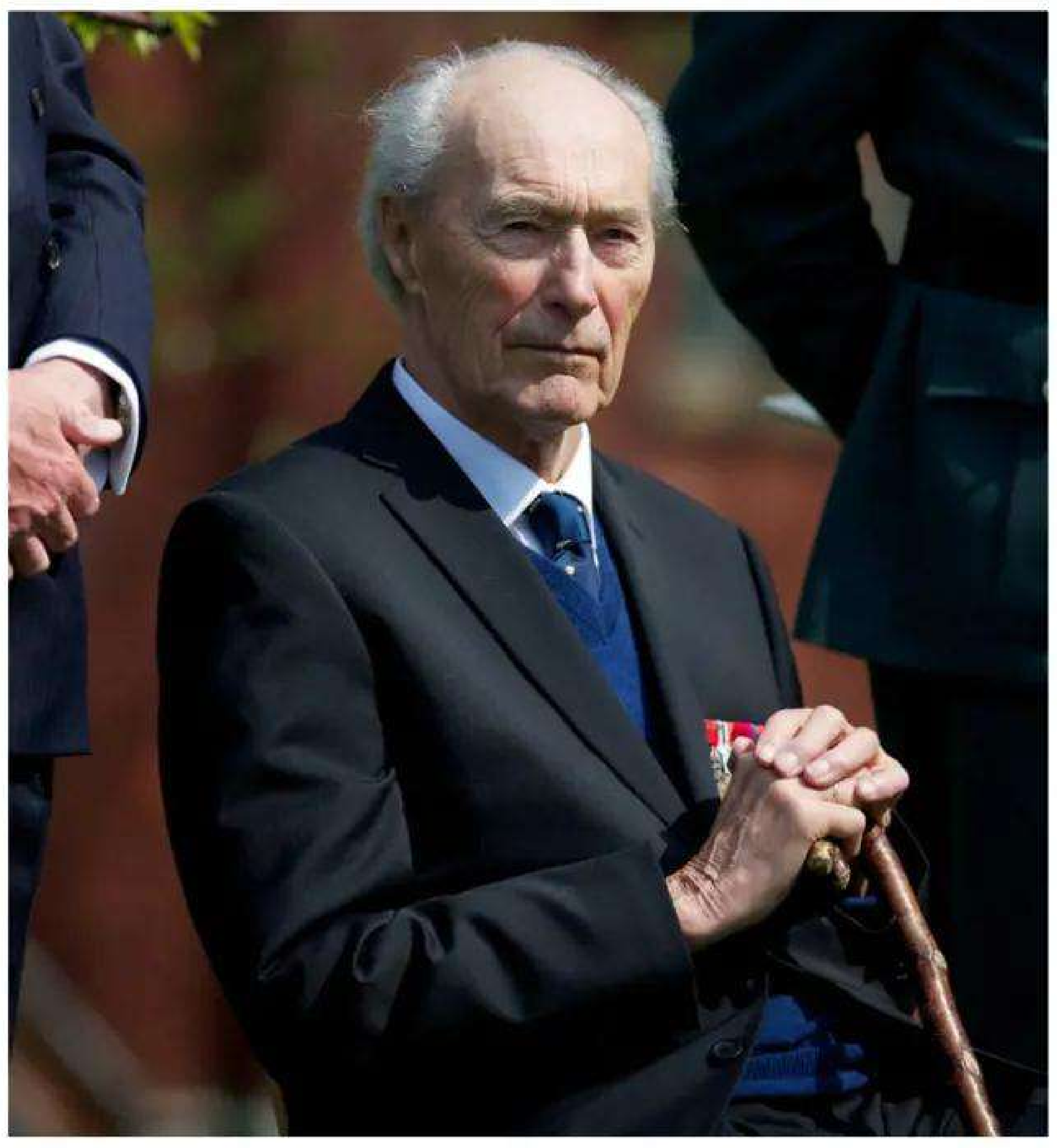
THE COUP AGAINST IRANIAN DEMOCRACY – 1953

In 1953, MI6 agents orchestrated the overthrow of the democratically elected government of Mohammad Mosaddegh in Iran, which had sought to limit the control over its oil reserves by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (now part of BP). Monarchical rule under the shah then followed until the Iranian Revolution in 1979.



THE MISSION THAT STOPPED A NAZI A-BOMB – 1943

By 1943, the Nazis were producing industrial quantities of heavy water in an attempt to build an atomic bomb until the factory they used in Vemork, Norway was blown up by SOE agents on 27 February. The remainder of the chemicals produced there were destroyed in transit by agents a year later.



THE CAPTURE OF COLONEL GADDAFI – 2011

In 2011, MI6 helped capture former Libyan dictator Colonel Muammar Gaddafi who'd gone into hiding after being toppled from power during the Libyan Civil War. In a mission dubbed Operation X, he was tracked down in the desert with high-tech surveillance equipment reportedly worth £25 million.

successful guerrilla campaign against the Nazis, the SOE also proved instrumental in galvanizing resistance movements from Paris to Prague.

Around 13,000 SOE agents were eventually dropped into occupied Europe but it's thought they rallied an army of over a million resistance fighters during the conflict. The effect on Germany's war effort was devastating.

But it wasn't just abroad that MI6 was helping to win the war for Britain. By early 1941, MI6 codebreakers at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire had cracked Germany's supposedly impregnable Enigma code, which it used to transmit all of its top-secret intelligence. Britain could now intercept and decipher just about any message Hitler's high command sent to his war machine. MI6, however, lacked both the manpower and the resources to cope with the vast deluge of information it was now privy to. So in February 1941, a delegation from the then still-neutral USA was invited to Bletchley Park. During this historic meeting, MI6 chiefs revealed Britain's most closely guarded wartime secret to US counterparts – that Enigma had been cracked. The hope was that by sharing this information it could coerce America into joining the struggle against Hitler. It was the first time in history that two nations had colluded to share vital secret intelligence on such a large scale, and it marked the start of what Churchill would come to call 'The Special Relationship' between the UK and the US.

As the war went on, the bond between the two countries deepened further. The US officially entered the war in December 1941, and American codebreakers were soon working alongside their British counterparts in the huts at Bletchley. Those who came were impressed not just by British ingenuity, but how well MI6 coordinated all of its various sections – from codebreaking to commando raids – from its HQ in central London. The US at this time had nothing like it, so in 1942 the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) was set up in New York. It was founded by former US Army Colonel William Donovan who closely copied the model that Cumming had created over 30 years earlier.

By the end of the war, with Britain having given the US access to both its spy network and covert listening stations across Europe, the intelligence services of both countries had become closely intertwined. By 1947, just as SBS had once morphed into MI6, the OSS became the CIA and American cooperation with British intelligence deepened ever further as the world was thrown into a new age of uncertainty – the Cold War.

The men who betrayed their country

This new era, though, would expose a fatal flaw in MI6 policy. Since its beginnings, the organisation had largely recruited its domestic spies from the country's upper classes. This elite, it was felt, could be trusted to stay loyal to the British establishment. A person's social status – the school they'd gone to and the people they mixed with – was considered sufficient proof of their patriotism with no proper background checks being made before recruitment. It was a naive misplacement of trust that the USSR's own secret service the KGB would exploit ruthlessly.

As Europe had rumbled towards war in the 1930s, communist ideas had spread amongst intellectuals looking for a philosophy that could check the rise of fascism. The KGB, realising this, had infiltrated Britain's top universities on the hunt for men who might potentially betray their country. In 1934, they enlisted perhaps their most famous recruit – a Cambridge graduate called Kim Philby.

The son of a well-known academic and alumnus of Westminster Public School, Philby had impeccable upper-class credentials. The KGB instructed him to join MI6, to work his way up its ranks as well as to feed them a stream of information. By 1949, with the Cold War well underway, Philby became first secretary to the British Embassy in Washington – a position which allowed him access to huge amounts of classified intelligence about the joint operations the US and UK were running against the Soviet Union. He soon began feeding this intelligence to his spymasters in Moscow.

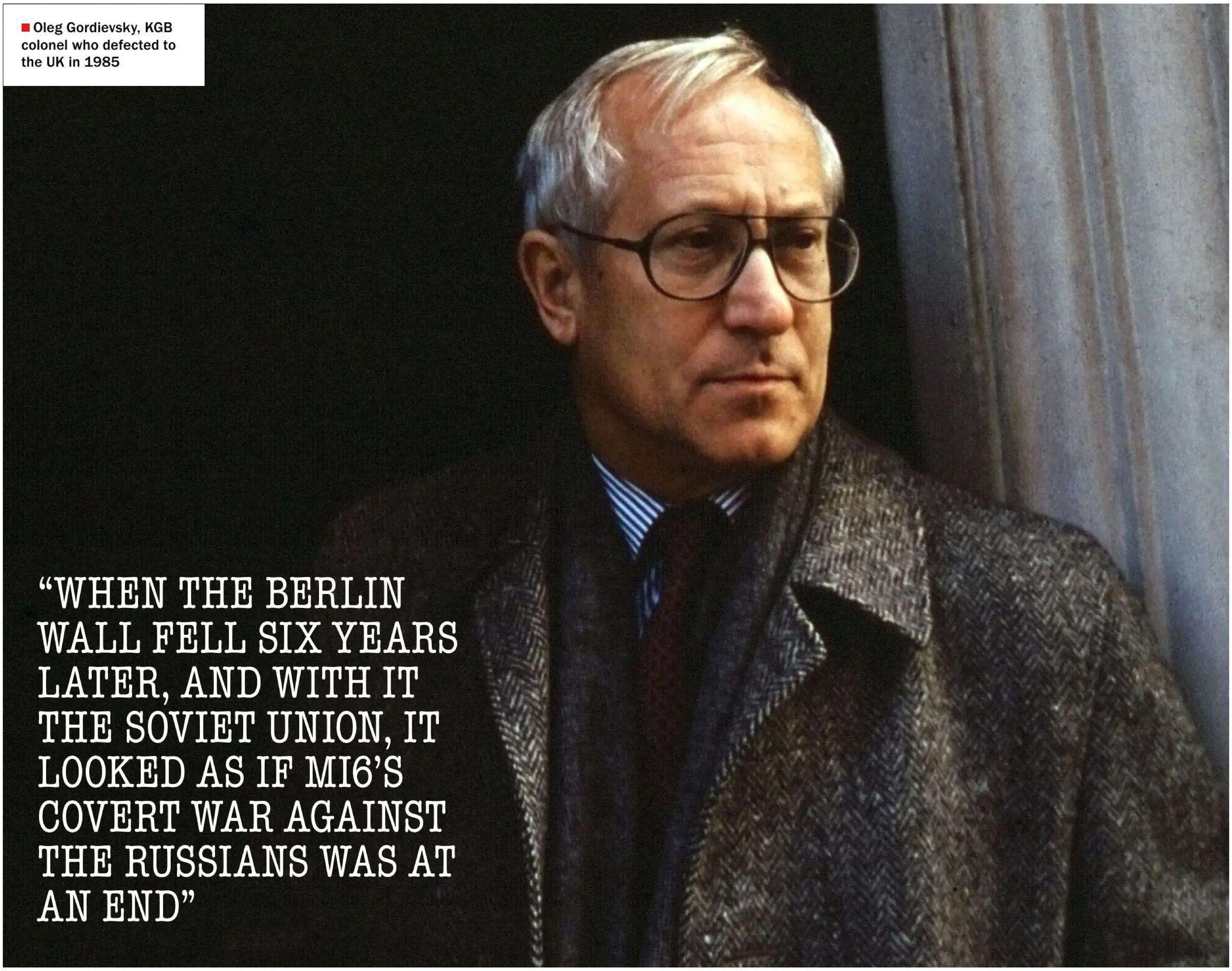
By 1951, however, Philby was summoned back to London. Two other Washington Embassy staff, Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean – also Cambridge graduates and Soviet spies – had disappeared during an investigation into leaked information only to surface in the USSR. Philby was now interrogated about the matter by MI5 (Britain's domestic intelligence service) to determine whether he had been the 'Third Man' in Burgess and Maclean's spy ring. Although no proof was established and Philby resigned from MI6 shortly afterwards, rumours about his treachery persisted. The British establishment, however, remained so convinced that one of their own couldn't possibly be working for the other side that Philby was even defended in the House of Commons by the then Foreign Secretary Harold MacMillan. Philby followed this with a carefully orchestrated press conference in 1955 during which he protested his innocence to the public, and continued to deny allegations he was a double agent for the next ten years.

By 1965, however, the weight of evidence against Philby was too great to ignore, and fearing arrest he finally fled to the Soviet Union expecting to be greeted as a hero. Instead he was met with suspicion. The Russian authorities placed Philby under virtual house arrest for the next 20 years. Philby died in Moscow in 1988, just as the Soviet Union was beginning to unravel, having slowly drunk himself to death.

Of all the roles in modern espionage, that of the double agent was clearly the one fraught with most danger. This is why perhaps all of MI6's attempts to infiltrate the KGB in the early part of the Cold War had ended in failure. In the late 1960s, however, they found one Russian operative who looked like he might work with the West. Oleg Gordievsky was a young KGB spy working in Denmark. Gordievsky had grown disillusioned with the regime he served after the Soviet Union had invaded its ally Czechoslovakia in 1968 to prevent its government from introducing liberalising reforms. He now indicated that he'd be prepared to work for MI6.

Armageddon averted

Gordievsky quickly climbed the KGB career ladder to achieve the rank of colonel and, in 1982, was posted to London as the KGB's chief intelligence

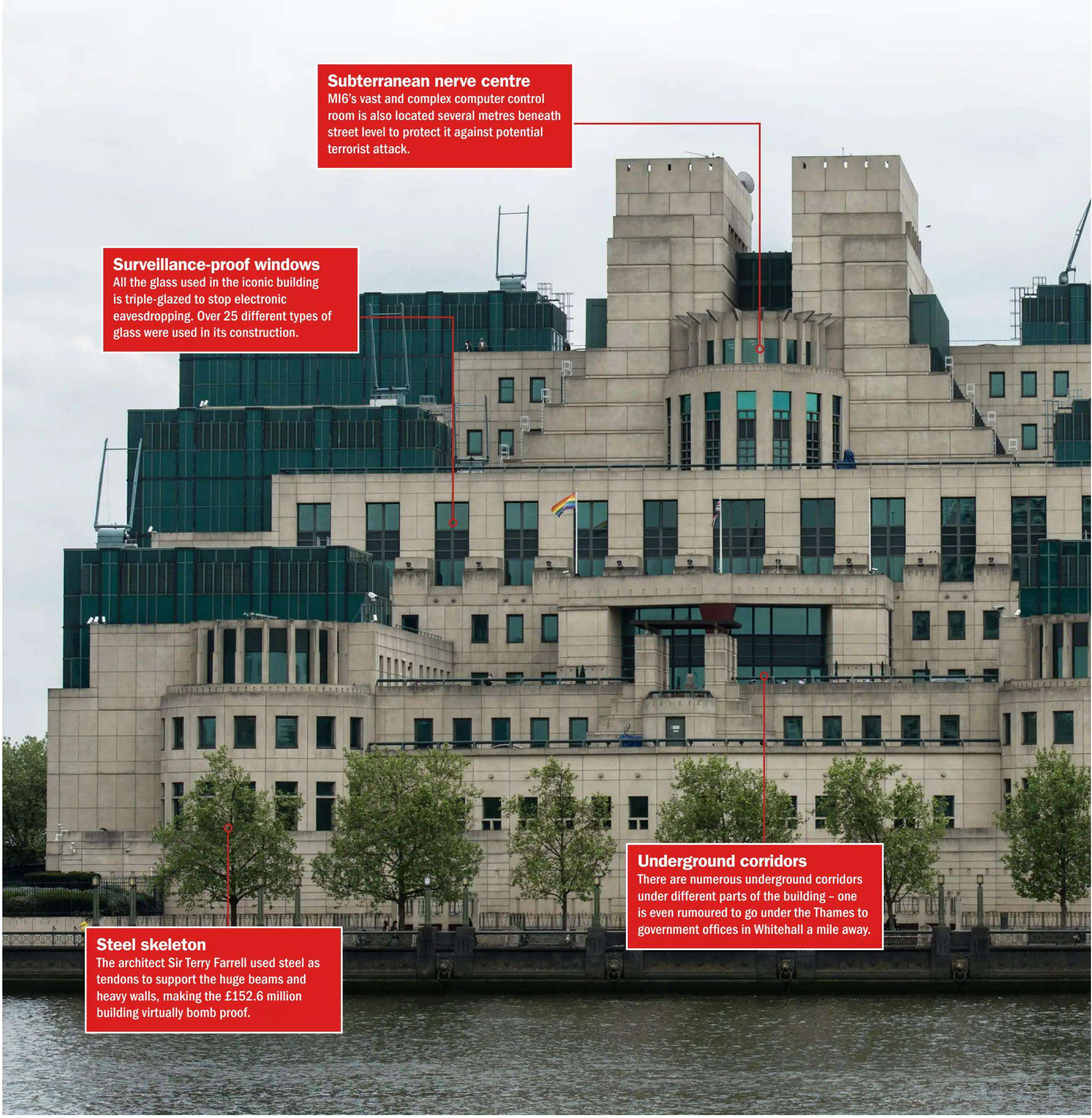


Oleg Gordievsky, KGB colonel who defected to the UK in 1985

> "WHEN THE BERLIN WALL FELL SIX YEARS LATER, AND WITH IT THE SOVIET UNION, IT LOOKED AS IF MI6'S COVERT WAR AGAINST THE RUSSIANS WAS AT AN END"

MI6'S SPY HEADQUARTERS

SINCE 1994, MI6 HAS OPERATED FROM THE PURPOSE-BUILT SIS BUILDING AT VAUXHALL CROSS



Subterranean nerve centre
MI6's vast and complex computer control room is also located several metres beneath street level to protect it against potential terrorist attack.

Surveillance-proof windows
All the glass used in the iconic building is triple-glazed to stop electronic eavesdropping. Over 25 different types of glass were used in its construction.

Underground corridors
There are numerous underground corridors under different parts of the building – one is even rumoured to go under the Thames to government offices in Whitehall a mile away.

Steel skeleton
The architect Sir Terry Farrell used steel as tendons to support the huge beams and heavy walls, making the £152.6 million building virtually bomb proof.

> “IT MAY SOUND FAR FETCHED, BUT AS AN MI6 DOUBLE AGENT, OLEG GORDIEVSKY CAN ACTUALLY BE CREDITED WITH SAVING THE WORLD”

Security cameras
Hundreds of CCTV cameras both inside and outside the building make sure that anyone approaching the building, or indeed in it, is under constant surveillance.

Blast-proof walls
The walls are several feet thick in places and made from superstrong composite-material concrete. An IRA rocket attack on the building in 2000 made little impact.

officer in Britain. As such he was responsible for Soviet intelligence gathering and espionage in the UK. It was a position, though, that also allowed him easier access to his MI6 contacts, to whom he now fed classified information regularly.

It may sound far fetched, but as an MI6 double agent, Gordievsky can actually be credited with saving the world. In late 1983, unknown to the public, Europe teetered on the brink of nuclear armageddon. Since his election in 1981, America’s hawkish president Ronald Reagan had upped the Cold War’s stakes.

Referring to the USSR as the “Evil Empire” in foreign-policy speeches, he’d announced controversial plans to create the Strategic Defense Initiative – the so-called ‘star-wars programme’ which aimed to put missile systems into orbit around the earth. By stationing US defences in outer space the US would be able to circumvent the United Nation’s Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty which had been signed by the US and USSR in 1972 to reduce the threat of a global nuclear destruction.

During the same period Reagan had also ramped up America’s defence spending, announcing a 20 per cent increase in its budget in 1983 that saw it leap by $44 billion in a single year. With tensions already running high, a huge NATO exercise called Able Archer 83 was planned for November of that year, which would replicate a period of conflict escalation culminating in a simulated nuclear attack. Even the US president – as the country’s commander-in-chief – was involved in the exercise.

Able Archer may have been intended as a giant war game by the West, but the massive build-up of troops and weaponry along the USSR’s western borders that it resulted in looked to the Kremlin very much like preparations for a full-scale attack. In response, the Soviet leadership readied its forces and was on the brink of ordering a pre-emptive nuclear strike. War now seemed all but inevitable, and in London, Gordievsky received a message from Moscow informing him of an impending nuclear attack. Without hesitation he contacted MI6 to tell them what was happening.

The information was swiftly passed onto the CIA and the US, realising that they were unwittingly provoking a war, immediately scaled down the exercise and removed the elements that involved President Reagan. Gordievsky’s courage and quick thinking had averted a nuclear holocaust – but only just. When the Berlin Wall fell six years later, and with it the Soviet Union, it looked as if MI6’s covert war against the Russians was at an end. But in 2006, a resurgent Russia proved that if anything the Federal Security Service – as the KGB became – was more dangerous than ever.

On 1 November, dissident Alexander Litvinenko was fatally poisoned at a London hotel when his tea was laced with radioactive polonium-210. Litvinenko’s murder, though, wasn’t just a case of the Russian government getting rid of an outspoken critic. Litvinenko, it has since been revealed, was actually a MI6 agent who’d been working with the British to expose the Russian mafia’s infiltration of the Russian government. His assassination, then, can potentially be seen as a state-sanctioned hit, with many analysts suggesting it was most likely authorised by the Russian president himself, former KGB colonel Vladimir Putin.

If anything, the end of the Cold War has made MI6’s task today even more complex. The collapse of the Soviet Union created a vast power vacuum, which has been filled by corrupt governments and shadowy criminal networks, as well as political and religious extremists practising a sophisticated brand of terrorism that uses the internet as a means to recruit and spread hatred across the globe. At least 20 rogue states are also known to be actively targeting the UK, making MI6’s role in keeping Britain safe as relevant today as it was when Mansfield Smith-Cumming first set up shop on Victoria Street to keep an eye on the Kaiser, over a century ago.

■ Alexander Litvinenko was a MI6 agent poisoned in London

Image source: Getty Images, Alamy, Shutterstock

WORTHY OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE

Feared by some and celebrated by others, the United States Secret Service is responsible for protecting the US President and other office holders

WORDS **CATHERINE CURZON**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Secret Service agents are sworn to protect the President of the United States, as well as perform other protective and investigative duties

When John Hinckley attempted to assassinate President Reagan and wounded several others in the process, Secret Service agents swung into action

Secret Service agents immediately responded with lethal force on 3 October 2013 when a car rammed the White House security gates

Image source: Alamy

When counterfeiting swept the US after the Civil War, a commission established by President Abraham Lincoln determined that a Secret Service would be the solution. On the very day that Lincoln signed the Service into being, he was shot and killed. The Secret Service was established on 5th July 1865 under the auspices of the Treasury and its responsibilities soon far exceeded investigations into counterfeiting to encompass anyone who was committing fraud against the government.

Following the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901, the Secret Service remit broadened to include full-time presidential protection. It was the first US counterintelligence and domestic intelligence agency and remained under the control of the Treasury until 2003, at which point it transferred to the newly established Department of Homeland Security. Today, it remains answerable to this agency.

The Secret Service has two distinct national security missions, as mandated by Congress. First is a protective mission, in that they are to protect the leaders of the United States. Included in this remit are the president and vice president, former presidents and their immediate families, as well as anyone in the line of succession, senior candidates and visiting heads of state and government. it also traditionally provides security to the secretary of homeland security, the secretary of the treasury, and others personally requested by the president. The president and vice president are not permitted to refuse the protection on offer. In addition, a number of residences including the White House come under this protection.

The second responsibility of the Secret Service is an investigative mission, to safeguard the financial and critical infrastructure of the nation. This encompasses frauds including but not limited to cyberterrorism, identity theft and bank and financial fraud. In addition, the Secret Service works to investigate missing and exploited children.

Under both of its missions, the Secret Service is required to foster relationships and cooperation with state and local law enforcement, as well as other agencies. Though not without its critics, nor without scrutiny, it is a vital part of homeland security in the United States. Today, the Secret Service continues to pursue its duel missions, with expansions into new operations and responsibilities. With a continuing focus on protection and prevention, the Secret Service continues to be a powerful force both in full view of the American public, as well as behind the scenes.

In the Secret Service Cyber Intelligence Center, agents work new frontiers in crime; as the world changes, their duties and remit must adapt too

THE PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE EXPLAINED

How this fleet of vehicular chaperones gets the president safely around

WORDS **SCOTT DUTFIELD**

As the leader of one of the world's most powerful nations, the President of the United States doesn't travel without a swarm of security personnel, known as the Secret Service. When the Secret Service was founded in 1865, its job was to tackle a growing concern over currency counterfeiting. However, in 1901 the focus of the Secret Service shifted towards protecting the welfare of the president following the assassination of the 25th President of the United States, William McKinley, during a public appearance in Buffalo, New York.

Now the Secret Service protects the president, along with other members of the US administration such as the vice president, when travelling around America and during international visits. That protection comes in the form of a military-style operation known as the presidential motorcade. Weapons experts, surveillance sensors, doctors and even a satellite connected to the Pentagon are just some of the security details that form the armoured fleet.

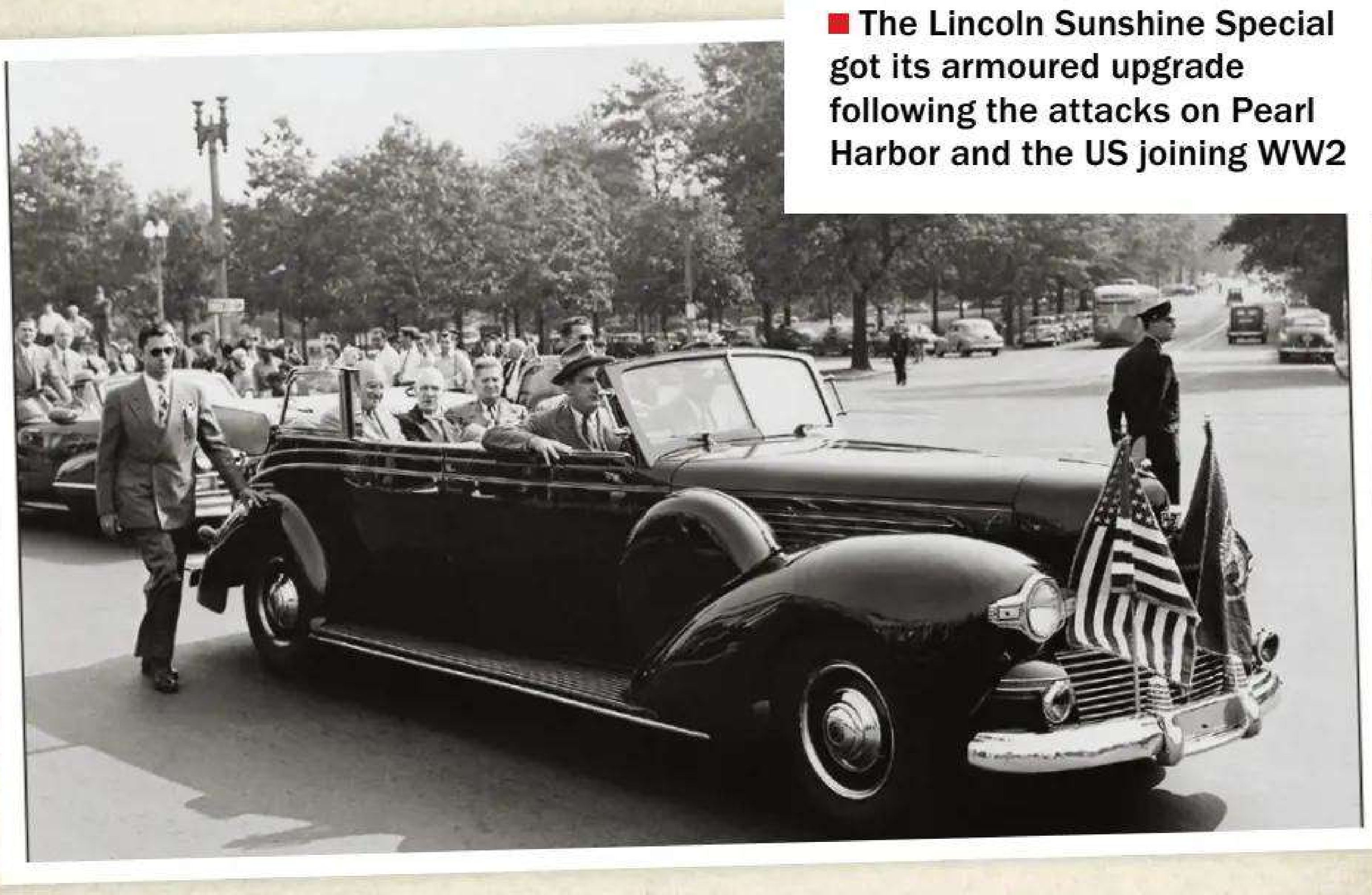
At the heart of this impressive procession is the presidential limousine, known as 'the Beast'. This limousine is over five metres long and is packed with gadgets and state-of-the-art weaponry: smoke screens, electrifying door handles and oil slicks are some of the many gizmos said to be packed into the Beast to ward off any attack. The car's exterior is also bullet-proof and hermetically sealed to protect the president inside from both biological and chemical attacks.

In the event that those security measures fail, the Beast has its own oxygen supply and a built-in refrigerator to store bags of blood that match the president's blood type. The car's tyres are also reinforced with kevlar to protect against punctures and the fuel tanks are encased in a special foam, preventing the tank from exploding on impact.

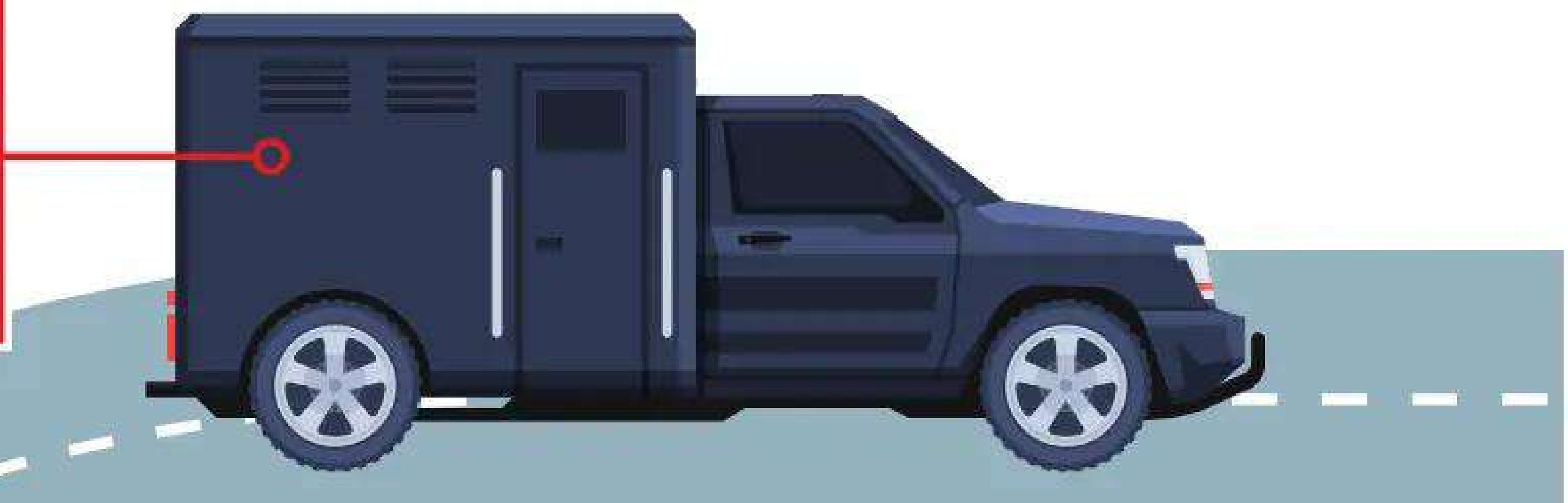
A presidential motorcade travelling in London during Obama's state visit to the UK

THE FIRST PROTECTED PRESIDENT

In 1941, Franklin D Roosevelt became the first president to ride in an armoured vehicle – a Cadillac that once belonged to the gangster Al Capone. The car was originally seized from Capone following the gangland boss' arrest for income tax evasion and was held by the Treasury Department from 1932. The only armoured components of the car were the bulletproof glass windows – the rest of the car remained vulnerable to attack. In 1942 Roosevelt got an armoured upgrade, a 1939 Lincoln 'Sunshine Special', nicknamed so because Roosevelt enjoyed riding with the roof down. This more robust vehicle was not only equipped with bullet-proof windows, but armoured body plating and a bullet-resistant fuel tank and tyres.

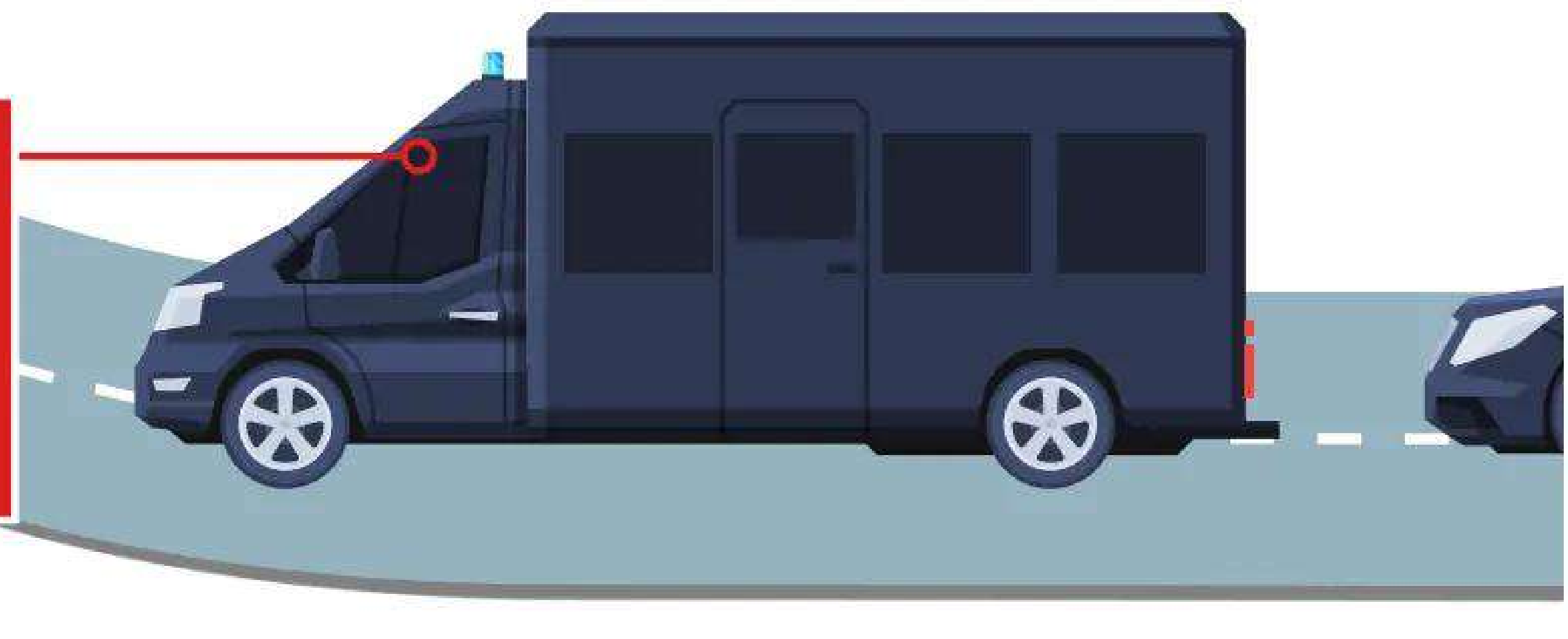

The Lincoln Sunshine Special got its armoured upgrade following the attacks on Pearl Harbor and the US joining WW2

9 Hazardous materials mitigation unit
Within this large truck are sensors to detect the threat of any nearby chemical, biological or even nuclear weapons.



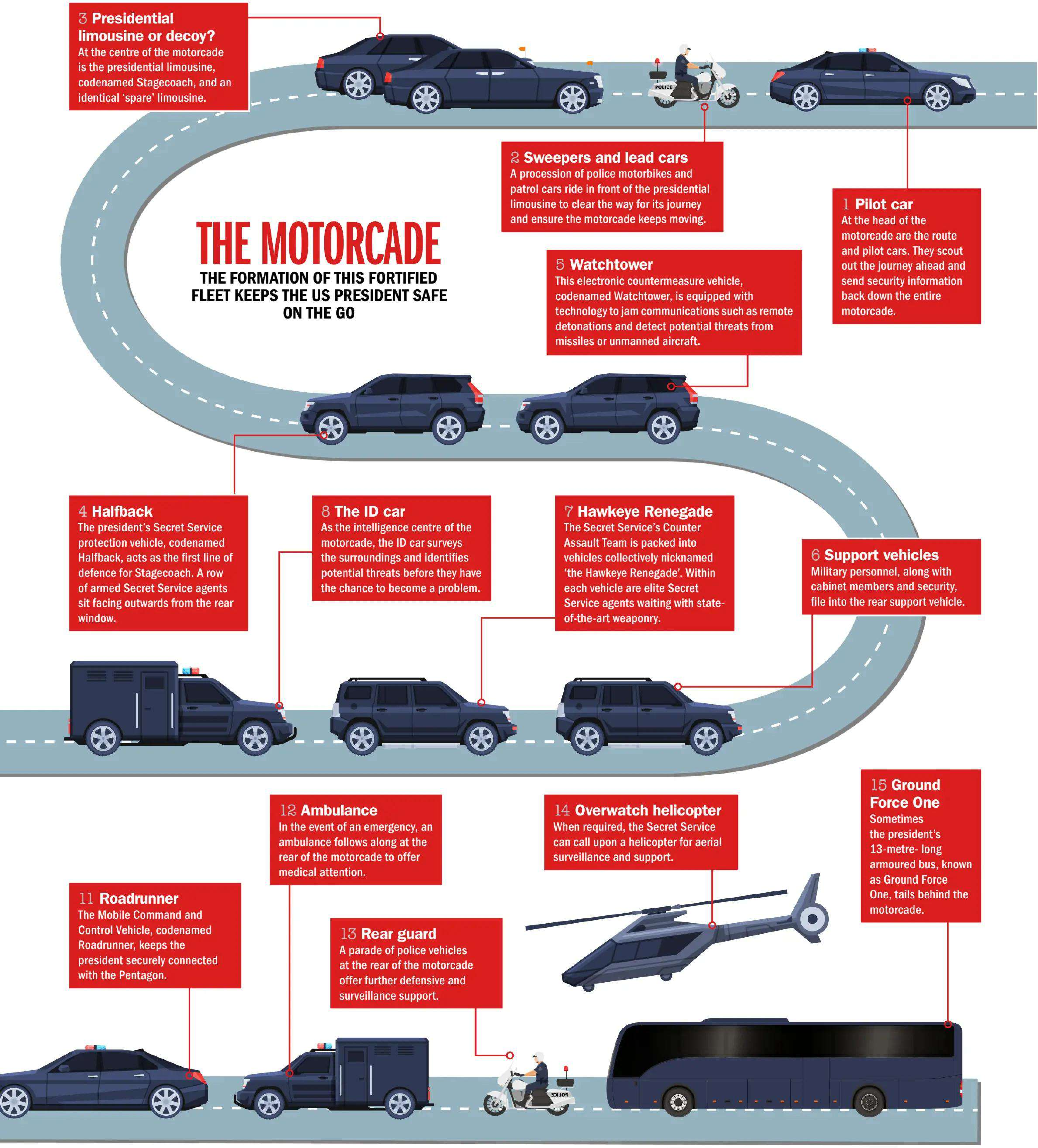
The presidential "Beast" pulling up the Royal Palace during the 2022 NATO Summit in Spain

10 Press vans
These vans transport journalists from major media outlets, as well as the White House media teams.



THE MOTORCADE

THE FORMATION OF THIS FORTIFIED FLEET KEEPS THE US PRESIDENT SAFE ON THE GO



1 Pilot car

At the head of the motorcade are the route and pilot cars. They scout out the journey ahead and send security information back down the entire motorcade.

2 Sweepers and lead cars

A procession of police motorbikes and patrol cars ride in front of the presidential limousine to clear the way for its journey and ensure the motorcade keeps moving.

3 Presidential limousine or decoy?

At the centre of the motorcade is the presidential limousine, codenamed Stagecoach, and an identical 'spare' limousine.

4 Halfback

The president's Secret Service protection vehicle, codenamed Halfback, acts as the first line of defence for Stagecoach. A row of armed Secret Service agents sit facing outwards from the rear window.

5 Watchtower

This electronic countermeasure vehicle, codenamed Watchtower, is equipped with technology to jam communications such as remote detonations and detect potential threats from missiles or unmanned aircraft.

6 Support vehicles

Military personnel, along with cabinet members and security, file into the rear support vehicle.

7 Hawkeye Renegade

The Secret Service's Counter Assault Team is packed into vehicles collectively nicknamed 'the Hawkeye Renegade'. Within each vehicle are elite Secret Service agents waiting with state-of-the-art weaponry.

8 The ID car

As the intelligence centre of the motorcade, the ID car surveys the surroundings and identifies potential threats before they have the chance to become a problem.

11 Roadrunner

The Mobile Command and Control Vehicle, codenamed Roadrunner, keeps the president securely connected with the Pentagon.

12 Ambulance

In the event of an emergency, an ambulance follows along at the rear of the motorcade to offer medical attention.

13 Rear guard

A parade of police vehicles at the rear of the motorcade offer further defensive and surveillance support.

14 Overwatch helicopter

When required, the Secret Service can call upon a helicopter for aerial surveillance and support.

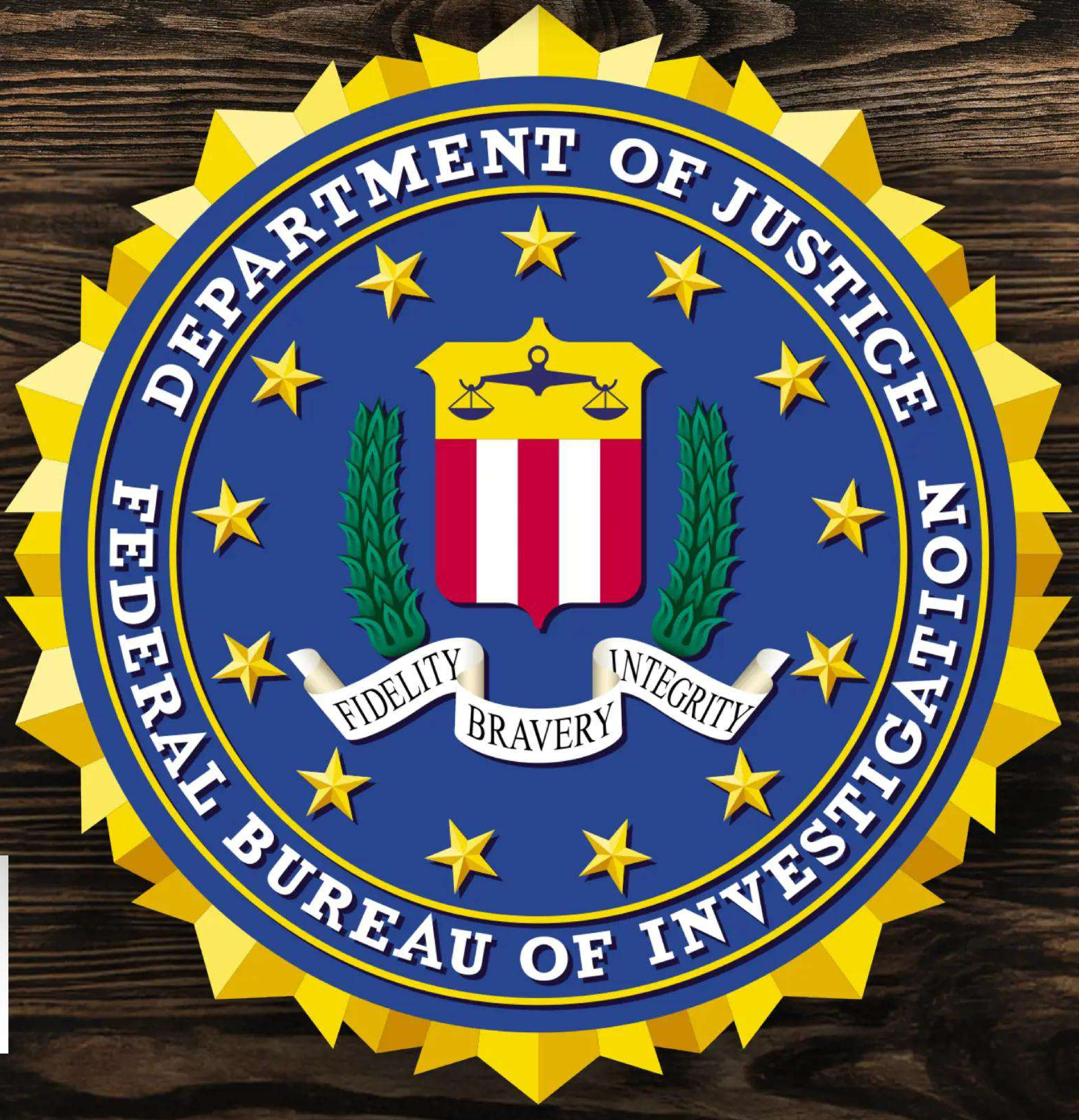
15 Ground Force One

Sometimes the president's 13-metre- long armoured bus, known as Ground Force One, tails behind the motorcade.

FIDELITY BRAVERY INTEGRITY

For 117 years the FBI have protected the people of America. From gangsters to spies, terrorists to corrupt politicians, they have dealt with them all

WORDS **DR JOANNA ELPHICK**


DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FIDELITY
BRAVERY
INTEGRITY

The FBI logo, designed by Special Agent Leo Gauthier, is based on the FBI flag. It represents the essential values and standards of the Bureau

By the turn of the 20th century, America was uniting and spreading far and wide. City populations were bigger than ever before and, thanks to improved railroad systems and the invention of Henry Ford's Model T, a car designed for the masses, it was easier than ever to travel across the booming federal republic. The Land of the Free was growing at an unprecedented rate but a seething underbelly of vice and criminality was sadly growing alongside it. Crooks could drive from state to state in order to elude police capture and it soon became clear that a new systematic way of enforcing the law across America was desperately needed.

When 28-year-old Leon Czolgosz shot President McKinley in 1901, it acted as the catalyst for a much-needed change of policing. Eight days later, Teddy Roosevelt, a no-nonsense hard-hitter who had previously run the New York Police Department, took the presidency and quickly installed Charles Bonaparte as his Attorney General and number-one lawman. Bonaparte was frustrated by the lack of special agents available to him as he attempted to tackle the overwhelming crime rate. He was having to rely on members of the Secret Service who answered to the Chief of the Secret Service rather than him. It was an expensive and counterintuitive way to run investigations so Bonaparte decided to create his own taskforce of investigators who would work directly for him. On 26 July 1908, he gathered together 34 agents, including nine from the Secret Service, with a clear mission to investigate cases for the Department of Justice. The FBI had begun.

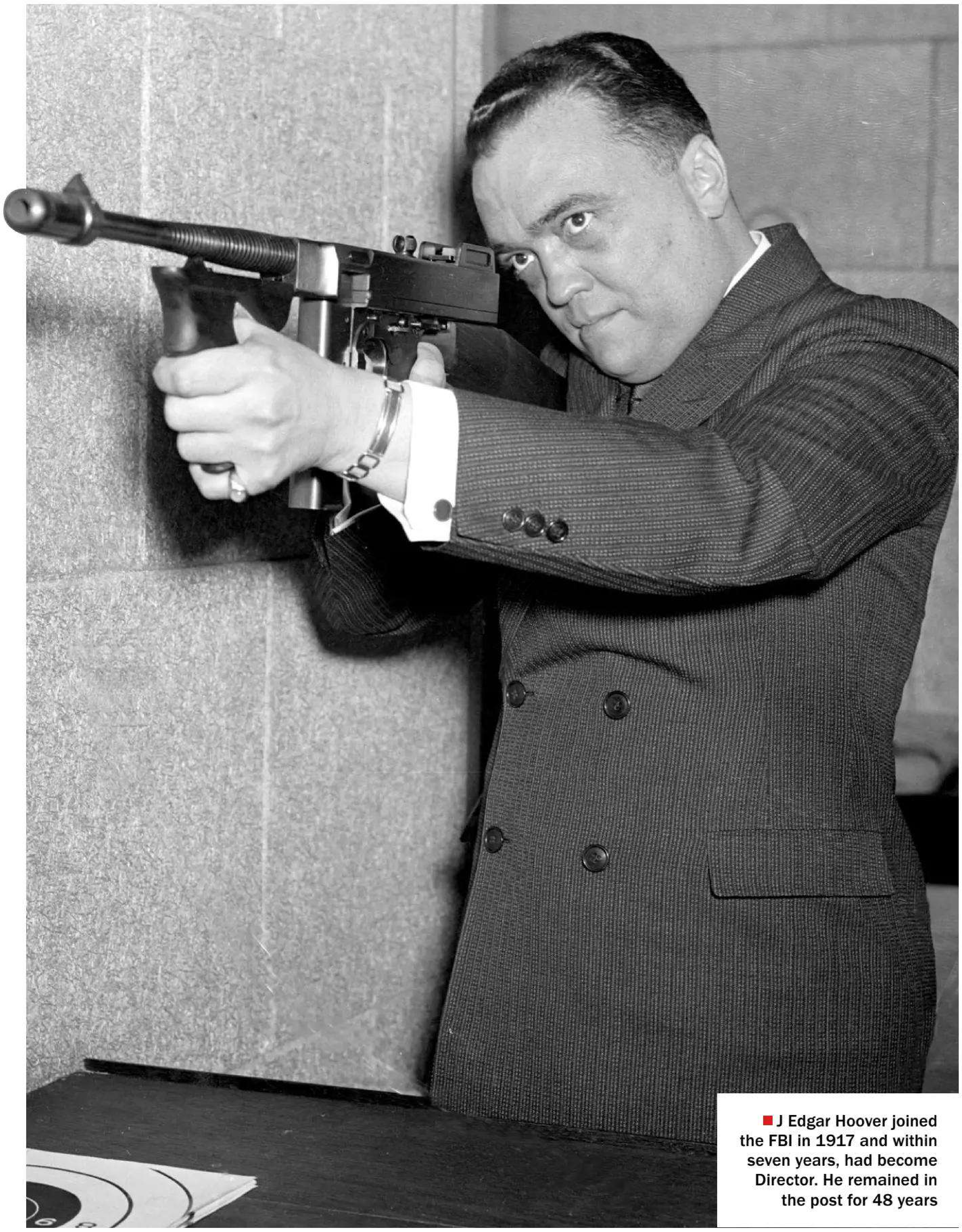
The initial FBI was rough around the edges. Not all agents were well trained and there was a distinct lack of discipline, but their hearts were in the right place and they were willing to learn. By 1915 the 34 personnel had increased to 360 and, when WWI broke out, the team were tasked with international espionage, hunting down deserters and rounding up enemy immigrants.

As the war ended, they could have been forgiven for assuming their workload would have calmed down, but, with the arrival of Prohibition in 1920, the FBI were faced with a new enemy, the American mobsters. A tsunami-like crime wave followed in the wake of the National Prohibition Act, or Volstead Act, with thousands of gangs running the city streets, setting up illegal bootlegging operations and seedy speakeasies. The FBI needed a strong, incorruptible leader who would not succumb to the gangsters' bribes and in 1924 J Edgar Hoover was named Director.

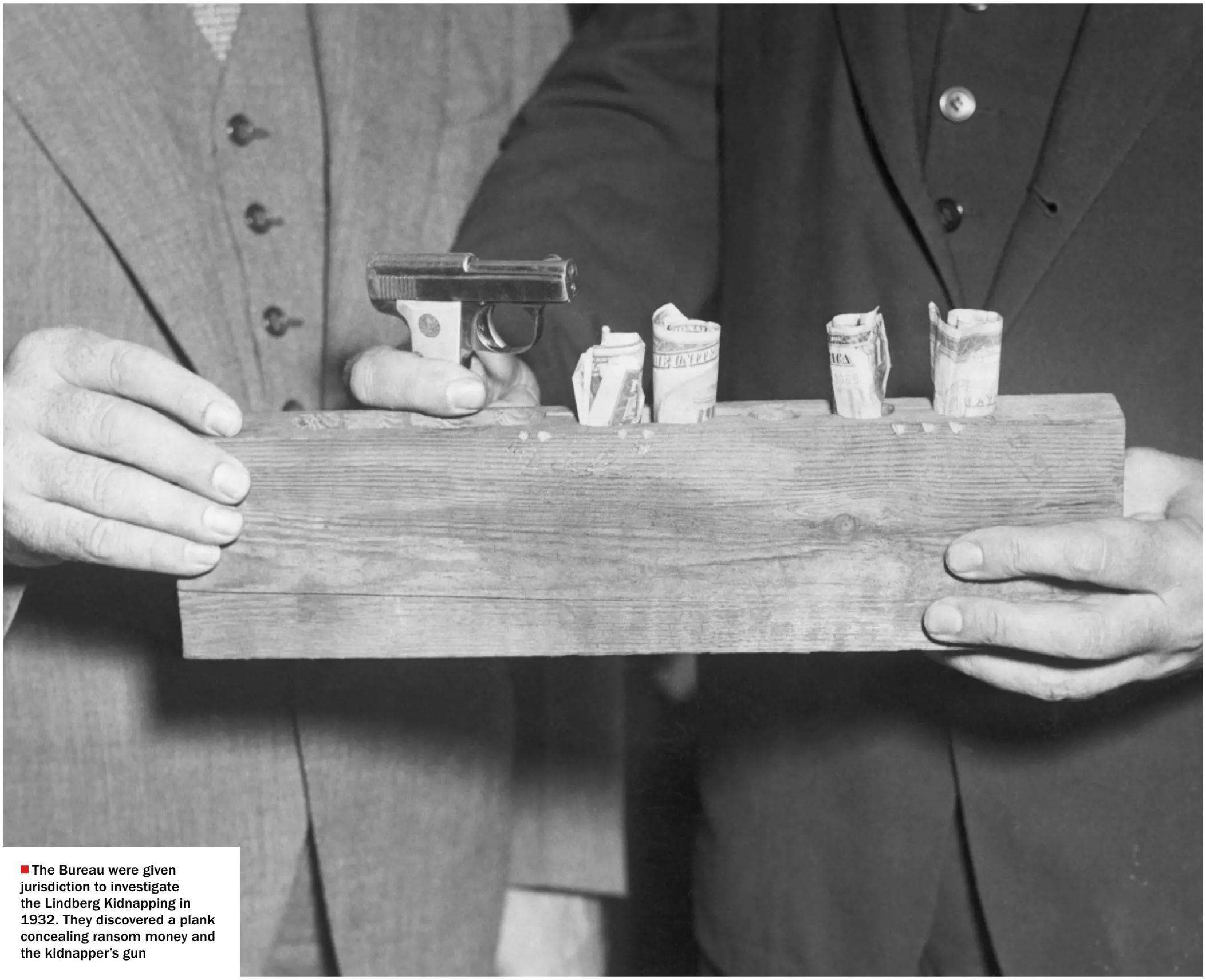
Under Hoover's watchful eye, agents were required to undergo intensive training and in-depth background checks. A series of systems were put in place to streamline the Bureau. All fingerprint files from around the country were brought together and named the Identification Division. Any police agency could approach them for matches to their crime scenes. This later included prints from Canada. Wanted posters, officially named Identification Orders, were released worldwide with accompanying fingerprints and, in 1950, would incorporate the FBI's 10 Most Wanted Fugitives List. Soon, the Bureau was centralising criminal records and collating crime statistics in order to understand the changing trends, particularly the gangster culture with its new 'professional' structure. At the same time, Hoover was setting up the now world-famous FBI Laboratory with microscopes, ultraviolet light machines and other vital investigative equipment in order to combine old-fashioned investigative techniques with cutting-edge science.

Prohibition may have been repealed in 1933, but the Great Depression had arrived and more jobless Americans were turning to crime to pay their way. Midwest bankrobbers such as Bonnie and Clyde, John Dillinger, and Alvin 'Creepy' Karpis became 'Public Enemies' but the Bureau were initially not involved in hunting them as their behaviour did not breach federal crime. However, after the Kansas City Massacre and the death of a Bureau agent, the FBI relied upon federal laws to hunt the gangsters down. After a number of successful well-publicised shootouts, the FBI became public heroes.

WWII saw to it that the FBI were put in charge of domestic intelligence and a new Special Intelligence Service were tasked with overseas intelligence. Whilst the FBI Laboratory concentrated on breaking enemy codes the


J Edgar Hoover joined the FBI in 1917 and within seven years, had become Director. He remained in the post for 48 years

"THE INITIAL FBI WAS ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES. NOT ALL AGENTS WERE TRAINED AND THERE WAS A LACK OF DISCIPLINE"



The Bureau were given jurisdiction to investigate the Lindberg Kidnapping in 1932. They discovered a plank concealing ransom money and the kidnapper's gun

remaining agents were required to protect the homeland. By 1944, there were over 13,000 agents working to keep America safe. As WWII ended, they were required to fight the protracted Cold War. Now the FBI would be expected to combat Soviet espionage tactics.

Over the years, the FBI have been frustrated by their federal jurisdiction. Despite their offer of help on many occasions, they were repeatedly blocked from supporting victims of the KKK. Lynching, for example, was not a federal crime, but in the infamous Mississippi Burning case, FBI agents quietly helped identify the killers. The Civil Rights Act 1964 made a host of civil rights violations federal crimes and to this day, the FBI considers enforcing civil rights one of their most important roles.

Hoover would oversee a number of high-profile assassinations such as Martin Luther King, President Kennedy and Senator Kennedy before passing away in 1972, five weeks before the Watergate Scandal. During that year, Quantico's FBI Training Academy opened. The use of revolutionary equipment, such as court-authorised wiretaps were taught here and used in long-term undercover operations against the Mafia. Today it houses a number of key educational facilities including the Behavioural Sciences Unit where agents are shown how to think like the criminals they are hunting, and the Hostage Rescue Team who are taught first-class negotiating tactics. The BSU has been particularly successful with its profiling techniques, ensuring the capture of monsters such as George Metesky the Mad Bomber, the D.C. Snipers and Dennis Rader, the BTK Killer. In 1988, it became the first facility in America to use DNA analysis during a criminal investigation.

Sadly, every time the FBI came up with new and exciting technological breakthroughs, so too did the criminal world and, as globalisation made the planet far more accessible, it also made international terrorists' jobs far easier. The shocking attack on Pan Am Flight 103 (the Lockerbie bombing) heralded the beginning of an unprecedented war on terror and the FBI's involvement in fighting international crime increased dramatically. The internet gave terrorists the opportunity to anonymously reach out across the world and the Bureau were constantly playing catch-up. Special Agents were posted around the globe, gathering and sharing intel with a new Counterterrorism Division, set up in 1999. Members of al Qaeda were rounded up and Osama bin Laden became number one on the FBI Ten Most Wanted Fugitives List.

Shockwaves from the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, were felt across the globe. The job of unpicking the disaster and establishing the perpetrators fell to the FBI under the leadership of Robert Mueller, their newly appointed Director. He had accepted the role one week before the Twin Towers fell. Within days, agents had identified the 19 hijackers. From there they established clear links with al Qaeda, but solving the crime was only half of the job. The FBI would be required to protect America from future attacks and if they were to succeed in this task, the Bureau would need to evolve. July 2006 saw the creation of a new department within the FBI's National Security Branch. The Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate is focused on prevention rather than solving crimes after they had occurred. Joint Terrorism Task Forces coordinated with other agencies, sharing intelligence in order to predict potential future attacks. For the first time, agents started to work alongside the CIA, integrating intelligence and sharing experts. Members of the Bureau were placed within U.S. Military units in order to gather DNA samples, analyse homemade explosive devices and interview detainees.

Today, the FBI continue to be at the forefront of preventative strategies, following terrorist money trails and other evidence, and halting their plans before they are set in motion. At the same time they continue to battle public corruption, profile violent criminals and combat the ever-increasing gang culture, stopping gang violence, organised crime and terrorists foreign and homegrown alike from turning the streets of America into a warzone. For over a century, the FBI has changed with the times, leading the way in investigative techniques and protective strategies. No doubt it will continue to do so in the next 100 years.

Between 1981 and 1990 the FBI rounded up and prosecuted over 1000 members of the Mafia including 23 bosses, weakening their underworld hierarchy

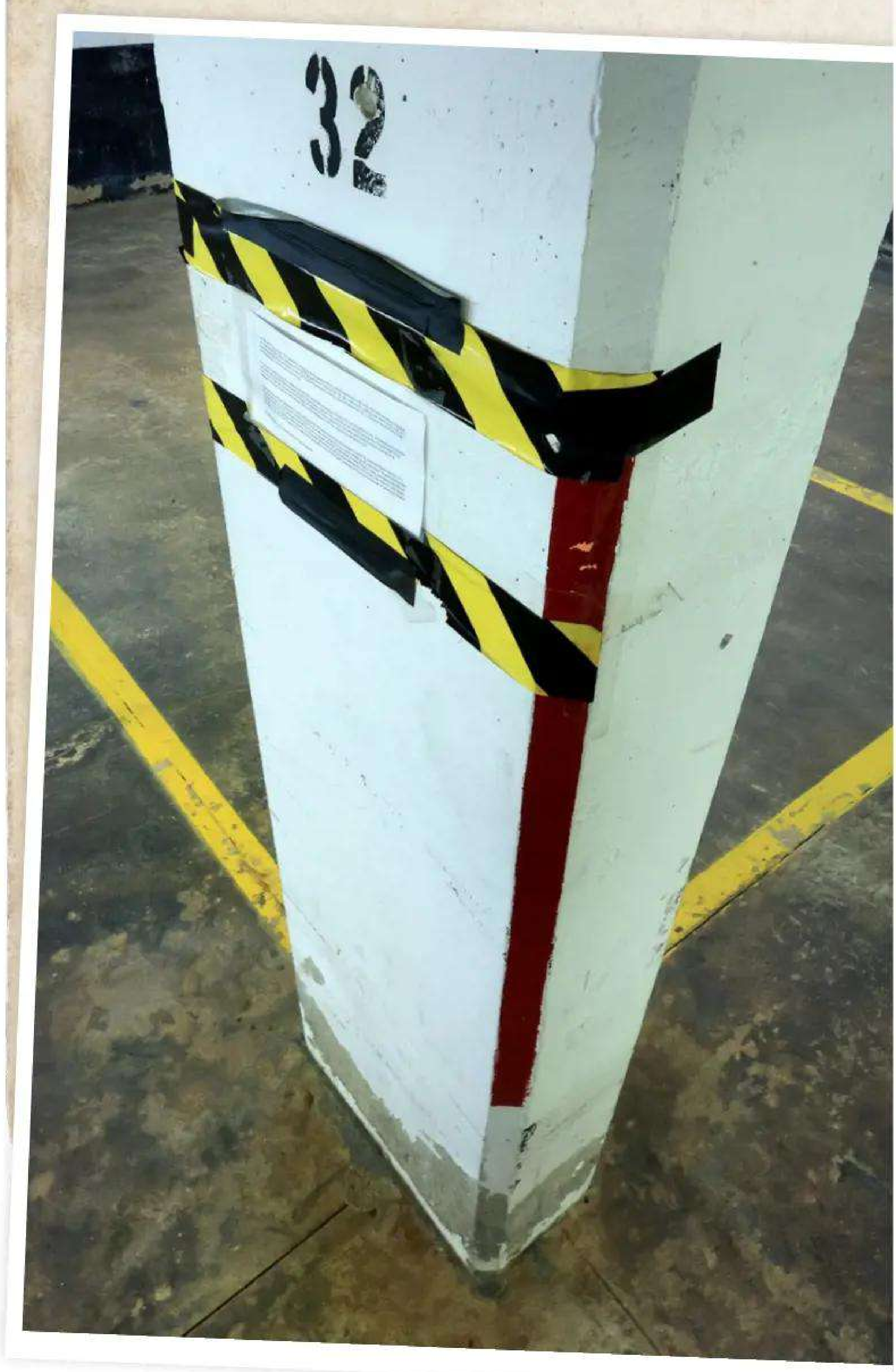
The Branch Davidian Cult's compound in Waco was engulfed in flames after a 51-day standoff with FBI and ATF agents, leading to a congressional enquiry

Images, Alamy, Getty

THE WATERGATE SCANDAL

On June 17, 1972, a guard was completing his final rounds at the Watergate Complex when he noticed an exit door that had been taped open. Having called it in, the guard went home, unaware that he had stumbled across the most infamous burglary in American history. The police were quick to capture the five men who had broken in but when they discovered bugging equipment and a series of fake IDs they realised this was not your everyday burglary. This was a job for the FBI.

Subsequent investigations showed that the break-in had been orchestrated by the re-election campaign staff of President Richard Nixon. The case was a political timebomb that required an in-depth investigation of the White House and a host of influential key figures. The FBI relied upon information provided by an undercover source, known as Deep Throat, who shared his knowledge with the media. He was later identified as former FBI Deputy Director Mark Felt. Tapes, secretly recorded in the Oval Office, revealed Nixon and the CIA planning to stop the FBI investigation. Luckily, they were unsuccessful and a transcript of the conversation, named 'the smoking gun', ensured that the gross abuse of presidential power was finally unearthed.



Reporters covertly met 'Deep Throat' at car park bay 32 under the Oak Hill Office Building, where he divulged many of the Watergate scandal secrets

WORKING IN THE SHADOWS

Covert and controversial, the Central Intelligence Agency actively engages in espionage activities to protect the interests of the United States

The Central Intelligence Agency, the primary organisation responsible for gathering intelligence on the activities of foreign countries on behalf of the United States government, was born out of a colossal intelligence failure.

Ample warning signs had preceded the disastrous Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, devastating American military capabilities in the Pacific and plunging the nation into the Second World War. However, there had been no coordination in gathering and analysing that information and no credible, concerted decision-making process in acting upon it.

In the wake of Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D Roosevelt created the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), forerunner of the modern Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), in early 1942 as an organisation to coordinate intelligence operations, eliminate rivalries among civilian and military services such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Offices of Naval and Army Intelligence, and present a comprehensive picture of foreign relations opportunities and perils that lay before the United States.

“ALTHOUGH THE AGENCY WAS RELATIVELY NEW – AND THE UNITED STATES WAS VIRTUALLY THE LAST INDUSTRIALISED NATION TO FORMALISE A FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE – THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE OSS TO VICTORY IN WORLD WAR II IS NOTABLE”

The Office of the Coordinator of Information, an earlier organisation conceived for such a purpose in July 1941, had proven a dismal failure. However, Roosevelt was determined not to allow the OSS to suffer a similar fate. To head the new agency, he chose General William ‘Wild Bill’ Donovan, a no-nonsense leader and decorated veteran of the First World War.

Under Donovan, the OSS became active in covert operations during World War II, training operatives to conduct secret missions against the Axis enemy through sabotage, commando strikes, support of guerrilla organisations, and the gathering of actionable intelligence. By late 1944, more than 12,000 personnel were engaged in OSS activities. Although the agency was relatively new – and the United States was virtually the last industrialised nation to formalise a foreign intelligence service – the contribution the OSS made to the victory in World War II is notable.

Temporary blindness

In the aftermath of the war, the rush to return to a peacetime perspective on the world resulted in the dismantling of much of the governmental apparatus that had functioned during the

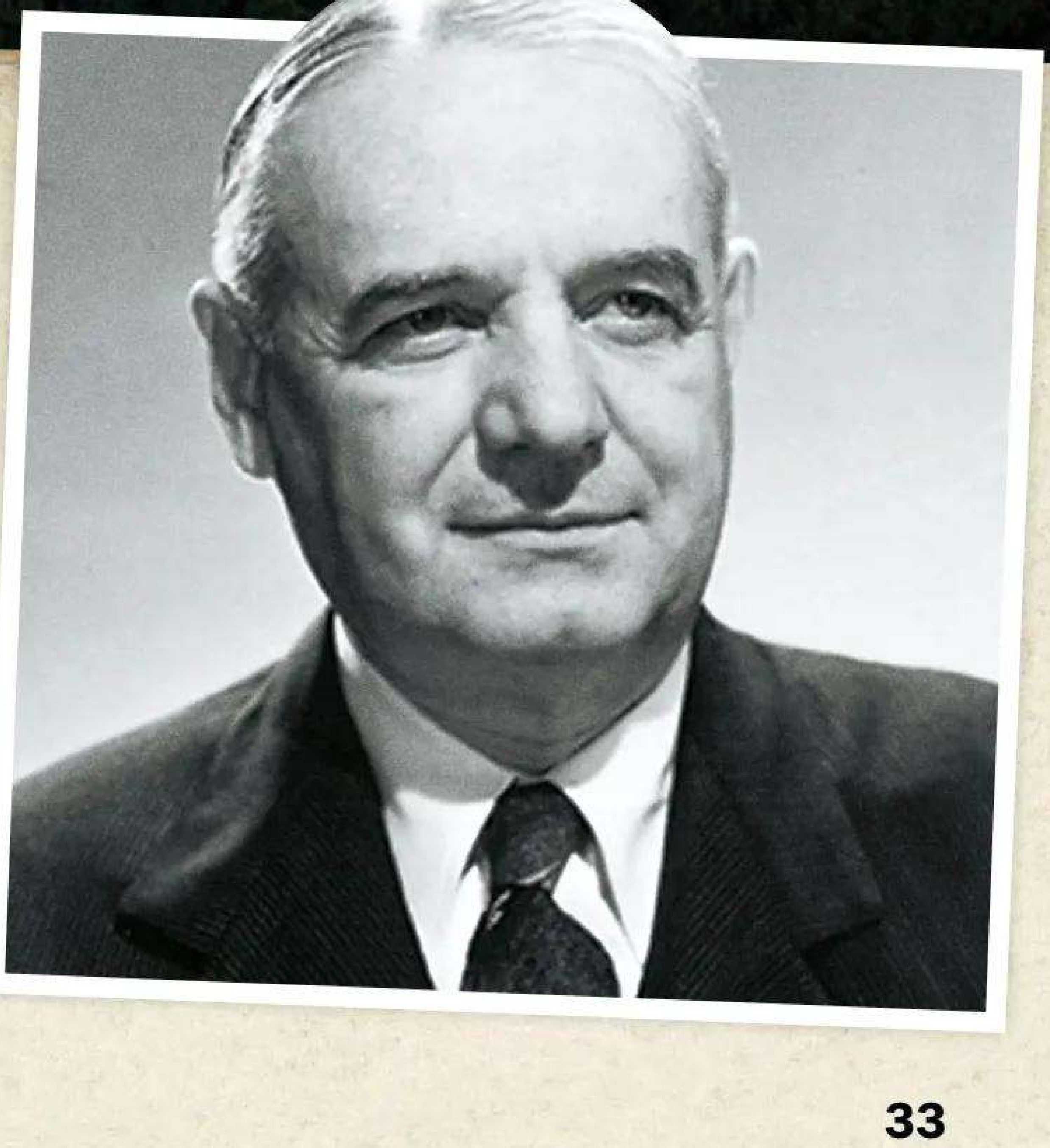
The sprawling headquarters complex of the CIA is located in Langley, Virginia, outside Washington, DC

“DONOVAN WAS NO STRANGER TO HAZARDOUS DUTY, PARTICULARLY OF A CLANDESTINE NATURE”

FATHER OF THE CIA

William ‘Wild Bill’ Donovan, director of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), forerunner of the modern CIA, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism during World War I. For the rest of his life, Donovan was no stranger to hazardous duty, particularly of a clandestine nature. Through his leadership, the spirit of the American intelligence community was formed. Between the world wars, Donovan worked as a US attorney and ran for public office. During the run-up to World War II, Donovan became a trusted advisor of President Franklin D Roosevelt, who named him coordinator of information in the summer of 1941, and after Pearl Harbor, director of the OSS. Donovan established training schools and fictitious companies to serve as fronts for espionage activities and began recruiting. Among those who served in the OSS were famed chef Julia Child, psychologist Carl Jung, actor Sterling Hayden, film director John Ford, author Stephen Vincent Benet, and numerous members of prominent American families.

OSS wartime activities provided vital intelligence and supported resistance operations in occupied countries while laying the foundation for the future CIA. After the war, Donovan served as US Ambassador to Thailand. He died in 1959 at the age of 76.



William Donovan, through his work as head of the OSS, set the groundwork for today’s CIA

> “AS THE COLD WAR GAINED INTENSITY, THE CIA ENGAGED REGULARLY IN THE DISSEMINATION OF PROPAGANDA REGARDING THE DANGERS OF COMMUNISM THROUGH MANIPULATION OF THE MEDIA”

conflict. A number of government agencies and departments were disbanded, and the OSS was among the casualties of peace. President Harry Truman, however, soon realised that a strategic deficiency came as a result from a self-inflicted ‘blindspot’ within the US intelligence community. Concerned particularly with intelligence gaps amid the burgeoning Cold War, he took steps to reinvigorate American capabilities.

In January 1946, the president authorised the Central Intelligence Group under the auspices of the newly created National Intelligence Authority. The organisation was charged with the task of conducting clandestine activities and providing strategic early warning regarding any threat to national security. In late 1947, both of these entities were disbanded.

With the passage of the National Security Act that year, the National Security Council (NSC) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) were created. The far-reaching responsibilities of the CIA included gathering, correlating, evaluating, and disseminating intelligence information along with coordinating the intelligence activities of existing agencies.

Through more than 70 years, the role of the CIA, its administration and its mission have evolved. Today, the primary US foreign intelligence agency is led by the director of central intelligence. Its functions are organised in five major directorates. The Directorate of Support oversees the workforce and the finances of the CIA, while the Directorate of Science and Technology maintains the agency’s surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities. The Directorate of Operations carries out covert operations and conducts espionage activities, and the Directorate of Analysis analyses information gathered from all sources. In 2015 the organisation added a brand new directorate to its arsenal – Directorate of Digital Innovation, which dedicates its resources to cyber operations and intelligence.

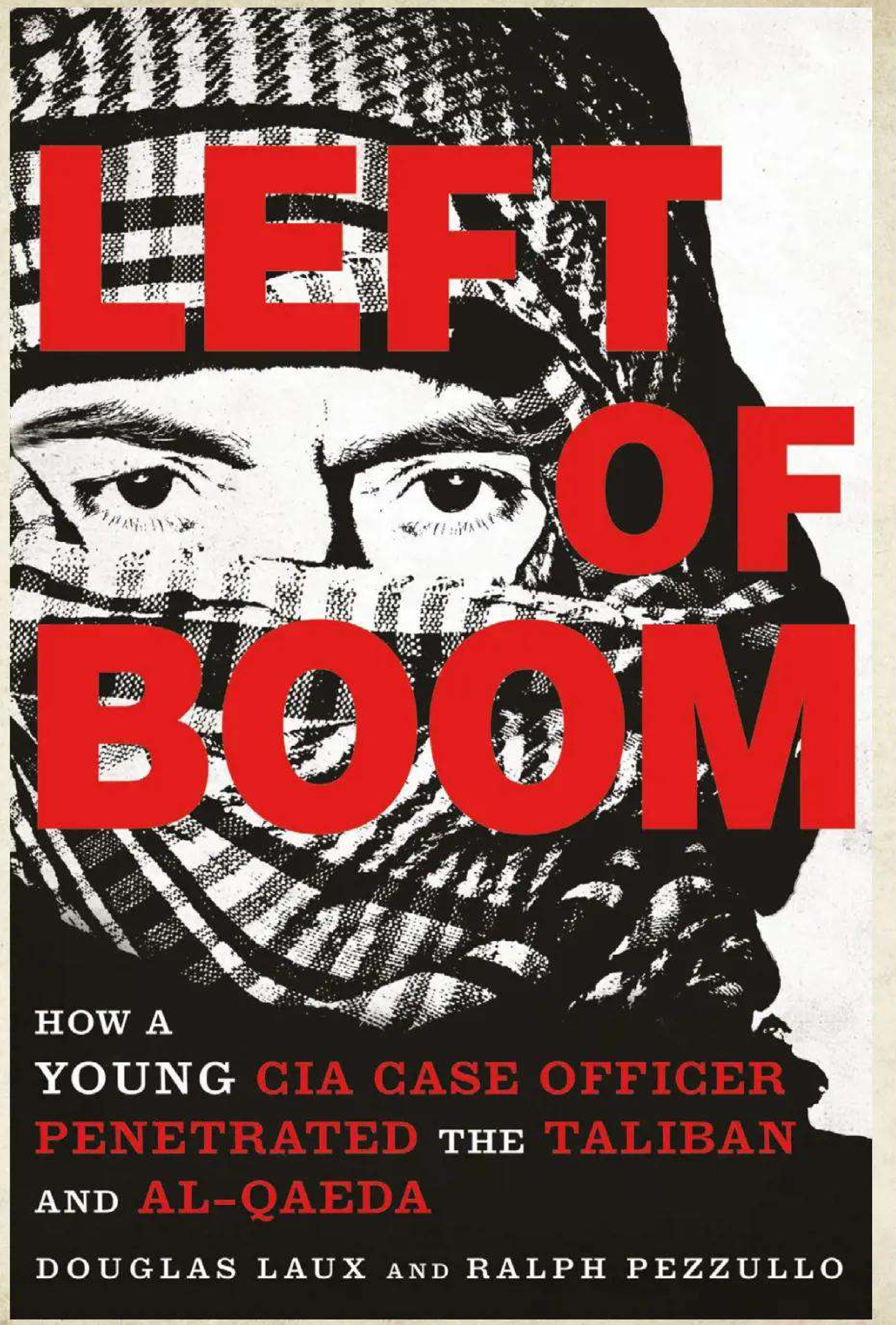
CIA in action

As the Cold War gained intensity, the CIA engaged regularly in the dissemination of propaganda regarding the dangers of communism through manipulation of the media. Beginning in the late 1940s, Operation Mockingbird assisted in the establishment of anti-communist control of numerous major newspapers and broadcast networks.

At the same time, it was deemed essential to develop contacts in Eastern Europe, utilising covert operatives and double agents to establish a reliable spy network behind the Iron Curtain. Operation Bloodstone was initiated to recruit former German intelligence officers, many with ties to the Nazi Party, in the effort. Although the enlistment of former Nazis blurred the line between the proverbial ‘good and evil’, leaders in the intelligence community reasoned that the end justified the means – any anti-communist could possibly serve their purpose.

Foreign frenzy

Fearing the global spread of communism, the CIA was actively engaged in regime change during the years that followed. In 1953,


LEFT OF BOOM
HOW A YOUNG CIA CASE OFFICER PENETRATED THE TALIBAN AND AL-QAEDA
DOUGLAS LAUX AND RALPH PEZZULLO

WHAT IT’S LIKE TO BE A CIA AGENT?

Doug Laux, former CIA officer turned author, opened up in both his book, *Left Of Boom*, as well as in his Reddit AMA (Ask Me Anything) about working as a modern spy in the field. He has shared information on the stress of the job, stopping an IED network and what stuff in the movies is just Hollywood fiction.

GETTING THE JOB

“A recruiter came to my campus at Indiana University and gave a speech. Then he encouraged us to all apply online. That’s what I did and this whole thing took off from there.”

SOCIAL LIFE

“Every new person I met was one more person I had to keep my secret from and weave another lie with. That web got pretty complex after a while.”

USING A PSEUDONYM

“That is 100% true. Most of my friends still call me by my fake name even though they know my true name. Wild huh?”

HIS ROLE

“The purpose of a case officer is to develop ‘spies’ or ‘informants’ or ‘agents’ or ‘rats’ or whatever you want to call them to collect information that is secretive that will benefit our country.”

LYING TO FAMILY

“When I deployed to Afghanistan I told them I was moving to Hawaii because they live in the midwest and I knew it was the furthest state away.”

LEAVING THE CIA

“When you leave [the] CIA you are gone baby gone. That Ronin stuff is Hollywood. I just did the equivalent of a Viking burial to say the least.”

The CIA headquartetresrs in McLean, Virginia, as photographed in 1977

“THE CAMPAIGN INCLUDED FINANCING, ARMING, AND TRAINING MILITARY OPPOSITION, RADIO PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS, AND EVEN BOGUS PHOTOS OF SUPPOSED ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT JACOBO ARBENZ”

concerned that Marxist philosophy would gain a foothold in the Western Hemisphere, the CIA implemented a program of covert operations that eventually toppled the government of Guatemala. The campaign included financing, arming and training military opposition, radio propaganda broadcasts, and even bogus photos of supposed atrocities committed by President Jacobo Arbenz, who eventually resigned.

In that same year, the agency succeeded in deposing the Premier of Iran, Mohammad Mosaddeq, and restoring the rule of the shah. In 1973, the CIA engineered a military coup that resulted in the death of leftist President Salvador Allende in Chile and the installation of a military government under General Augusto Pinochet.

CIA operations in south east Asia supported the pro-American regime in South Vietnam during a protracted war against the communist Viet Cong insurgency and the North Vietnamese Army. The United States became embroiled in the Vietnam War and suffered more than 58,000 dead in nearly two decades of military involvement. Among the CIA efforts in south east Asia were the formation of a contingent of native Hmong tribesmen to monitor the movement of communist troops and supplies along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, Operation Phoenix, a campaign to liquidate Vietnamese individuals with communist sympathies that resulted in the deaths of nearly 29,000 people, and support for the government of Laos in its war against the communist Pathet Lao.

For more than 25 years, the CIA ran Air America, a cargo and passenger airline that served as a front for covert operations including supply missions, the insertion and extraction of personnel, and even possible involvement in the drug trade.

Although much of the CIA’s activities produced the desired results, the agency’s notable failures during the period included the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, where expatriates attempted to topple the government of Cuban Marxist dictator Fidel Castro. Through the years, numerous attempts to assassinate Castro followed, some of them appearing absurd. These included inserting explosive loads, drugs, or poisons into his cigars and even attempting to recruit Mafia hitmen to kill the revolutionary. An outspoken critic of the United States, Castro remained in power for more than half a century, outlasting the administrations of nine American presidents. He died in 2016.

At various times during its existence, the CIA has been involved in scandal, such as the Iran-Contra Affair of the early 1980s, its engagement in domestic surveillance and espionage which seemed to run counter to its stated mission, and indirect involvement in the Watergate Scandal that ended the presidency of Nixon. The agency has been the subject of Congressional investigations and incriminating media reports on numerous occasions.

Soviet cat and mouse

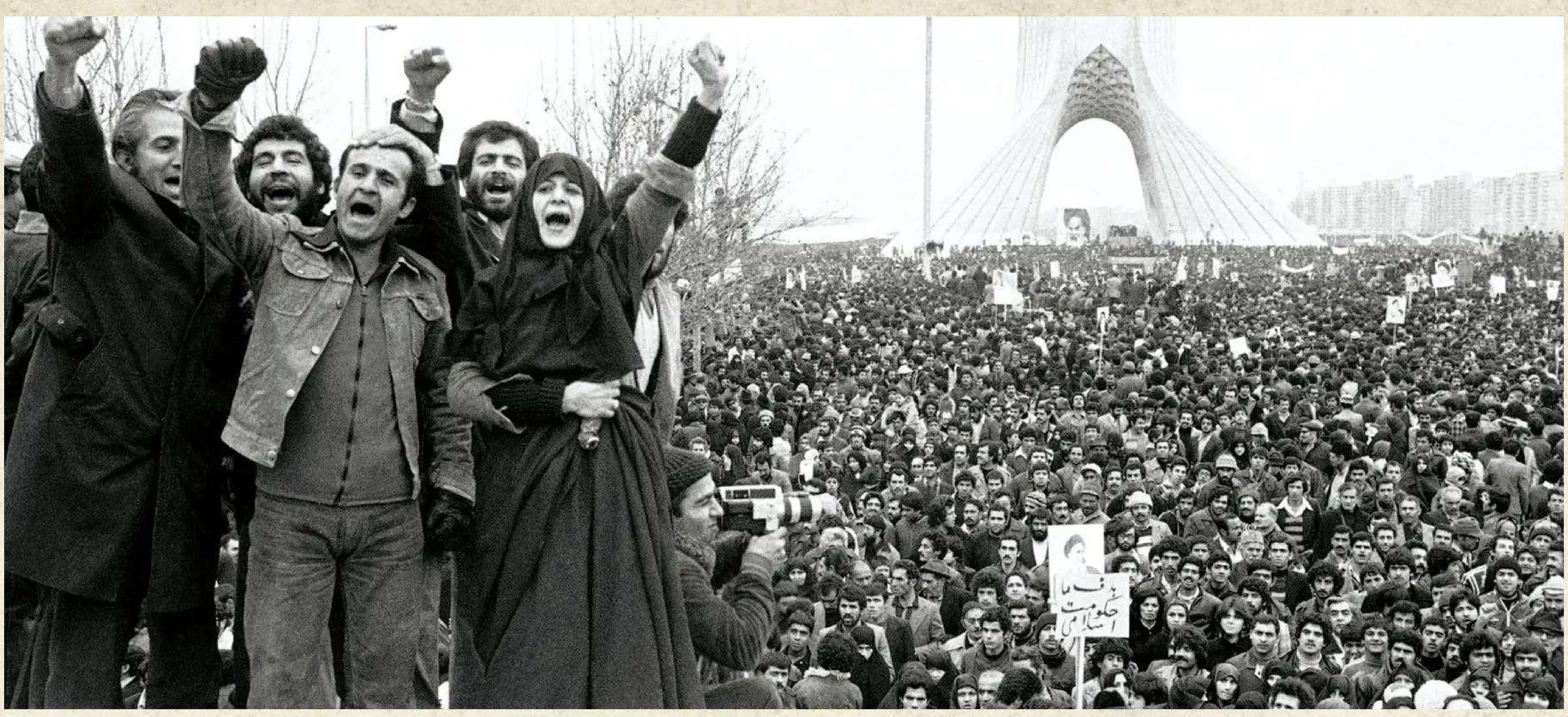
The Cold War spanned nearly half a century, and the intelligence gathered by the CIA through wiretapping, bugging, satellite surveillance, moles, double agents, and other means proved vitally important during negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union to limit nuclear arms. CIA agents infiltrated the Soviet military establishment and the KGB, the primary Soviet security agency. The CIA’s reach extended into the Soviet client states, where communications

THE CIA'S MOST ICONIC MISSIONS

IRANIAN REGIME CHANGE

1953

The CIA assists in the ouster of Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh, returning power to the Shah of Iran. In 1979, a revolt against the repressive regime of the shah's son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, leads to the formation of the Islamic State, a significant adversary of the United States to this day.



BIN LADEN DEAD 2011

After tracking Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden for a decade, CIA intelligence officers finally locate his hideout, a compound in the town of Abbottabad, Pakistan. On 2 May 2011, during Operation Neptune Spear, members of US Navy SEAL Team Six under the direction of the CIA kill bin Laden.

BAY OF PIGS 1961

An ill-conceived CIA-sponsored military invasion of Cuba intent on deposing Marxist dictator Fidel Castro ends in utter defeat as the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces defeat Brigade 2506, composed of expatriate Cubans armed and equipped by the agency. The invasion force is virtually annihilated with over 100 killed and 1,200 captured.

U-2 INCIDENT 1960

Flying a U-2 spy plane on a covert photo reconnaissance mission, CIA pilot Francis Gary Powers violates Soviet airspace and is shot down and presumed dead. President Dwight D Eisenhower's administration initiates a cover-up. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev produces evidence, including Powers, who stands trial for spying, exposing the American disinformation.

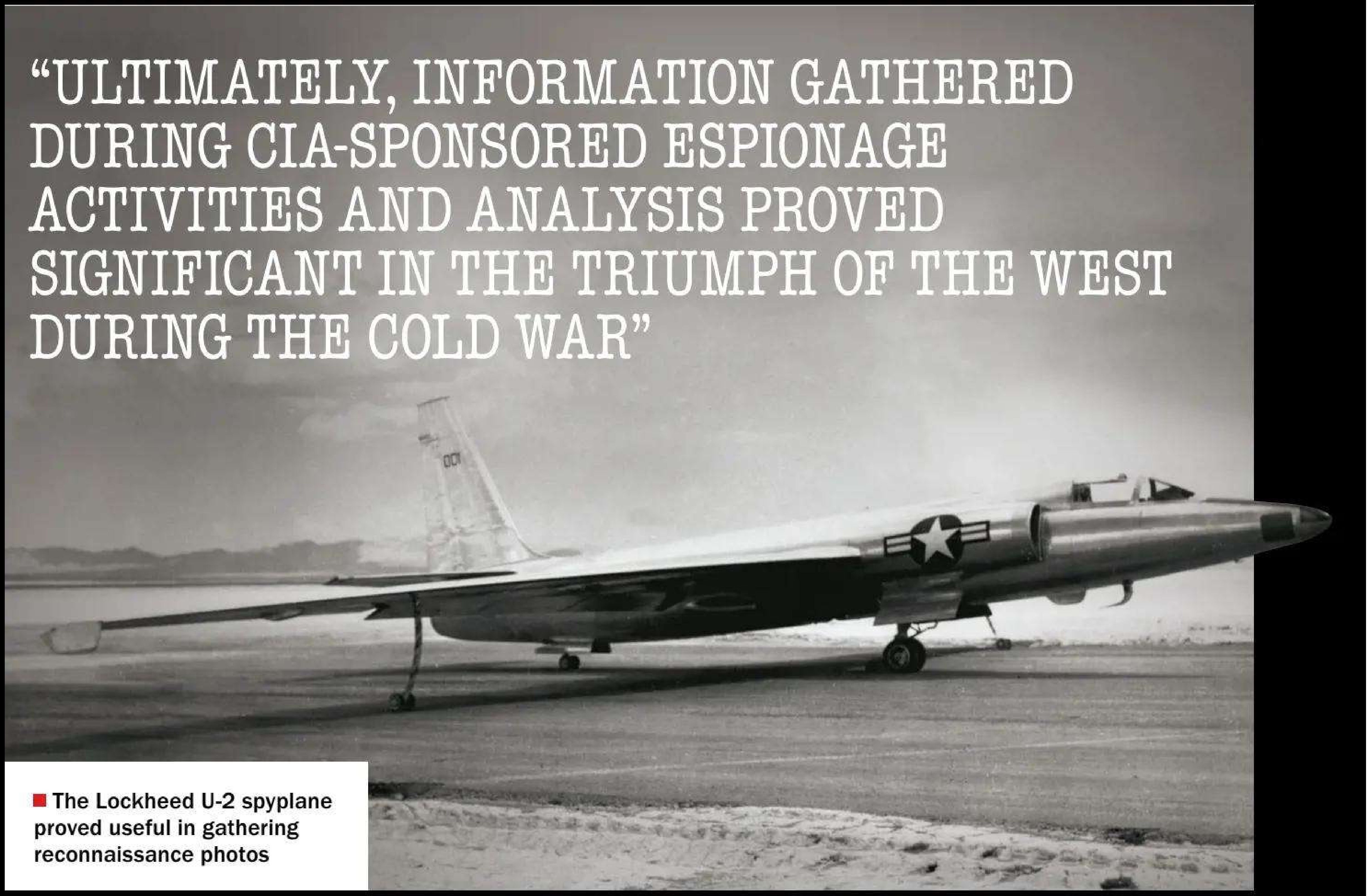
STARGATE PROJECT 1978

Set up in Maryland, the project researched psychic abilities and their uses for gathering intelligence. CIA reported the potential benefits of using mental powers as being passive, inexpensive and having no known defence. The Stargate Project was terminated in 1995 when the CIA reported that there were no uses for it in intelligence operations.

OPERATION GOLD 1954

A joint operation with the British SIS to monitor the Soviet Army's communications. By digging a tunnel under the headquarters in Berlin, they tapped into the landlines. The Soviet's found out about the operation soon after it started by George Blake, a British spy who was later found to be a double agent.

> “ULTIMATELY, INFORMATION GATHERED DURING CIA-SPONSORED ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES AND ANALYSIS PROVED SIGNIFICANT IN THE TRIUMPH OF THE WEST DURING THE COLD WAR”



■ The Lockheed U-2 spyplane proved useful in gathering reconnaissance photos

were routinely monitored, and into the communist People's Republic of China.

CIA surveillance efforts resulted in the development of the high-altitude Lockheed U-2 spy plane, which provided detailed reconnaissance photos. The U-2 was also at the centre of the embarrassing incident in which pilot Francis Gary Powers was shot down while on a covert spy mission that violated Soviet airspace. Nearly three years later, U-2 aerial reconnaissance confirmed the presence of Soviet medium-range ballistic missiles in Cuba, prompting an American naval quarantine of the island. Information obtained by the CIA handlers of Colonel Oleg Penkovsky, a Soviet double agent, also shaped the negotiating tactics of President John F Kennedy's administration during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Ultimately, information gathered during CIA-sponsored espionage activities and analysis proved significant in the triumph of the West during the Cold War.

Terror: A new reality

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the CIA was compelled to change its focus. It diverted its resources on emerging threats to national security and interests, including global terrorism, repressive regimes that committed genocide and ethnic cleansing on a massive scale, international criminal activity, and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The CIA has provided support for US and NATO operations in the Balkan states and in the Middle East during Operation Desert Storm and the invasion of Afghanistan, which followed the infamous Al-Qaeda terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on 11 September 2001. Paramilitary operations officer Johnny 'Mike' Spann, who died during an uprising of Taliban prisoners, was the first American killed in action during the invasion of Afghanistan and the subsequent War on Terror. In 2003, the US-led invasion of Iraq was precipitated on what was later found to be erroneous information supplied by the CIA asserting that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction.

Although the CIA had been forbidden since 1981 from carrying out political assassinations, the US government has deemed the agency's activities to eliminate the leaders of Al-Qaeda and other terror organisations as legitimate because the country is, technically, 'at war'. Since the agency initiated a concerted program to kill or capture terrorist leaders, scores of Al-Qaeda militants have been eliminated. On 30 September 2011, Anwar al-Awlaki, an American citizen who inspired numerous terrorist attacks, was killed in northern Yemen by Hellfire missiles that were fired from two Predator drones flying from a Joint Special Operations Command base operating under CIA management.

The most significant achievement of the War on Terror occurred on May 2 2011, when Al-Qaeda mastermind Osama bin Laden, inspirational leader of the terrorist organisation, was killed in a raid on his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, by members of US Navy SEAL Team Six under the tactical command of the CIA. To date, controversy had dogged the CIA's efforts to gain valuable intelligence from captured terrorists. The use of so-called 'black sites' in other countries to interrogate captives; methods of 'enhanced' interrogation such as waterboarding; transporting prisoners to foreign countries for intense questioning in a practice called 'extraordinary rendition'; and indefinite detention of individuals without charges, have brought harsh scrutiny.

At times the CIA has been deemed an organisation that's out of control, mounting its own covert operations without the approval or consent of the executive branch of the US government. However, its ongoing contribution to national and global security must be at least grudgingly acknowledged.

СТАЛИНСКИМ ДУХОМ
КРЕПКА И СИЛЬНА
АРМИЯ НАША
И НАША СТРАНА!
ЗА РОДИНУ!
ЗА СТАЛИНА!

SMERSH:

STALIN'S SPY HUNTERS

Revealing the Kremlin's secret and sinister organisation that hunted enemy agents during World War II

WORDS **CALLUM MCKELVIE**

Red Army soldiers at a victory parade in 1945. Soldiers like these would have had SMERSH units attached to their own

Ian Fleming's 1953 novel *Casino Royale* introduced the world to suave super-spy James Bond. As has been noted by academics in the decades following the book's publication and even by Fleming himself, he drew much from his own wartime experiences as a naval intelligence officer. Yet despite this, Fleming was keen to keep his books as up-to-date and contemporary as possible. The result was that the Soviet Union, whose uneasy alliance with Britain and America had collapsed in the years following the end of the war, was selected as James Bond's primary antagonist for Fleming's novels, in particular the shadowy intelligence organisation SMERSH. However, while James Bond may be fictional, SMERSH were terrifyingly real.

Despite not being the villains in any of the films (although it's framed as such in *From Russia With Love* and *The Living Daylights*, usually replaced with the criminal organisation SPECTRE) SMERSH appears in several of the 14 James Bond books. Fleming's version is of course vicious, violent and not entirely accurate to the actions and objectives of the real, equally shady organisation. To begin with, Fleming states that the group was behind the assassination of Leon Trotsky in Mexico in 1940. However, the real SMERSH (which is a portmanteau of the Russian phrase 'Smert Shpionam', meaning 'Death to Spies') was in fact founded some short time prior to 1943, when the first evidence exists of the organisation being fully operational. Put simply, it was intended to handle Soviet military counter-intelligence. Previously, all Soviet military counter-intelligence had been handled by the Special Departments of the NKVD, but SMERSH was part of the Defense Commissariat. SMERSH's chief, Viktor S Abakumov, reported directly to Joseph Stalin himself, who at the time acted as Defense Comisar. Indeed, it was on Stalin's orders that the organisation had been created in the first place. Evidence suggests that due to the vast size of the Red Army in 1943 (around 15 million to 17 million men) SMERSH was created primarily to monitor and stop any possible German infiltrations, hence it being separate from other military intelligence groups. So involved was the communist dictator that even the name is supposed to have come from Stalin. During a meeting to discuss the new organisation, a suggestion was apparently made that it should be called 'Smernesh' or 'Smert Nemetskim Shpionam' (translating as 'death to German spies'). Stalin paused for a moment and then responded: "And why as a matter of fact should we be speaking only of German spies? Aren't other intelligence services working against our country? Let's call it 'Smert Shpionam'."

Soon after Abakumov was appointed SMERSH commander in chief. Abakumov was incredibly powerful, and running one of the Kremlin's most secretive organisations and reporting directly to Stalin himself made him a force to be reckoned with. Yet Abakumov was also something of a cad, with a reputation as a notorious womaniser. He was known as a regular night-time visitor to the NKVD/MGB club, where he would use a private room to have sexual encounters with numerous mistresses whom he plied with imported liquors and gifted French perfume. He also reportedly used the Moskva Hotel, NKVD safe houses and a lavish apartment that he had seized from a soprano for his illicit meet-ups.

> 'NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME, BOND FELT HIS SPINE CRAWL AT THE COLD, BRILLIANT EFFICIENCY OF THE SOVIET MACHINE, AND AT THE FEAR OF DEATH AND TORTURE WHICH MADE IT WORK AND OF WHICH THE SUPREME ENGINE WAS SMERSH – SMERSH THE VERY WHISPER OF DEATH'
>
> **IAN FLEMING, LIVE AND LET DIE (1954)**

Minister for state security and SMERSH chief, Viktor Abakumov

"NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME, BOND FELT HIS SPINE CRAWL AT THE COLD, BRILLIANT EFFICIENCY OF THE SOVIET MACHINE, AND AT THE FEAR OF DEATH AND TORTURE"

Prior to his work as the head of SMERSH's operations this behaviour had in fact seen him fired from the economics department of the NKVD. At this point he had gained a reputation for stalking the streets of Moscow looking for prostitutes. He would then take them to the Moskva Hotel but supposedly also had a number of 'private brothels' under his control. Mikhail Shreider, a senior NKVD officer, was disgusted at Abakumov's behaviour and wrote a furious report that saw him dismissed immediately.

However, Abakumov evidently had friends in high places as he kept getting new positions. He was reassigned to the Gulag as 'an inspector at the main directorate of labour camps' in 1933. Following this, in April 1937 he was transferred to the Secret-Political Department of the GUGB (a forerunner of the NKVD) where he participated in three of the 'Great Terror' investigation cases. In 1938 he was promoted to head of the second section, before being given the highest Chekist post as head of the Rostov Province NKVD and then state secretary major (equivalent to a major general in the army) in 1939. In 1941, he was given the promotion that would put him in a senior position in the NKVD and make him one of the most powerful men working under Lavrentiy Beria, the feared head of the secret police.

For all his faults, Abakumov seemed to be well liked by many of the officers working under him. In Dr Vadim Birstein's *Smersh: Stalin's Secret Weapon*, one veteran stated: "He was greatly feared. All the veterans said he was tough and wilful. He worked a lot and forced others to work a lot. I liked his appearance, it gained everyone's favour."

The work of SMERSH was, naturally, incredibly secretive and as a result there is very little surviving primary source material, making it hard to discern exactly what their operations involved. Indeed, even detailed battle orders and plans fail to mention the commanders of the secret organisation who were present. Historian Michael Parrish, an associate professor at Indiana University and the author of over 50 books on Soviet history, stated in his book *The Lesser Terror: Soviet State Security 1939-1953* that: "In the vast Soviet literature on the Battle of Kursk, I have yet to come across a single reference to LF Tasnava, the local SMERSH commander."

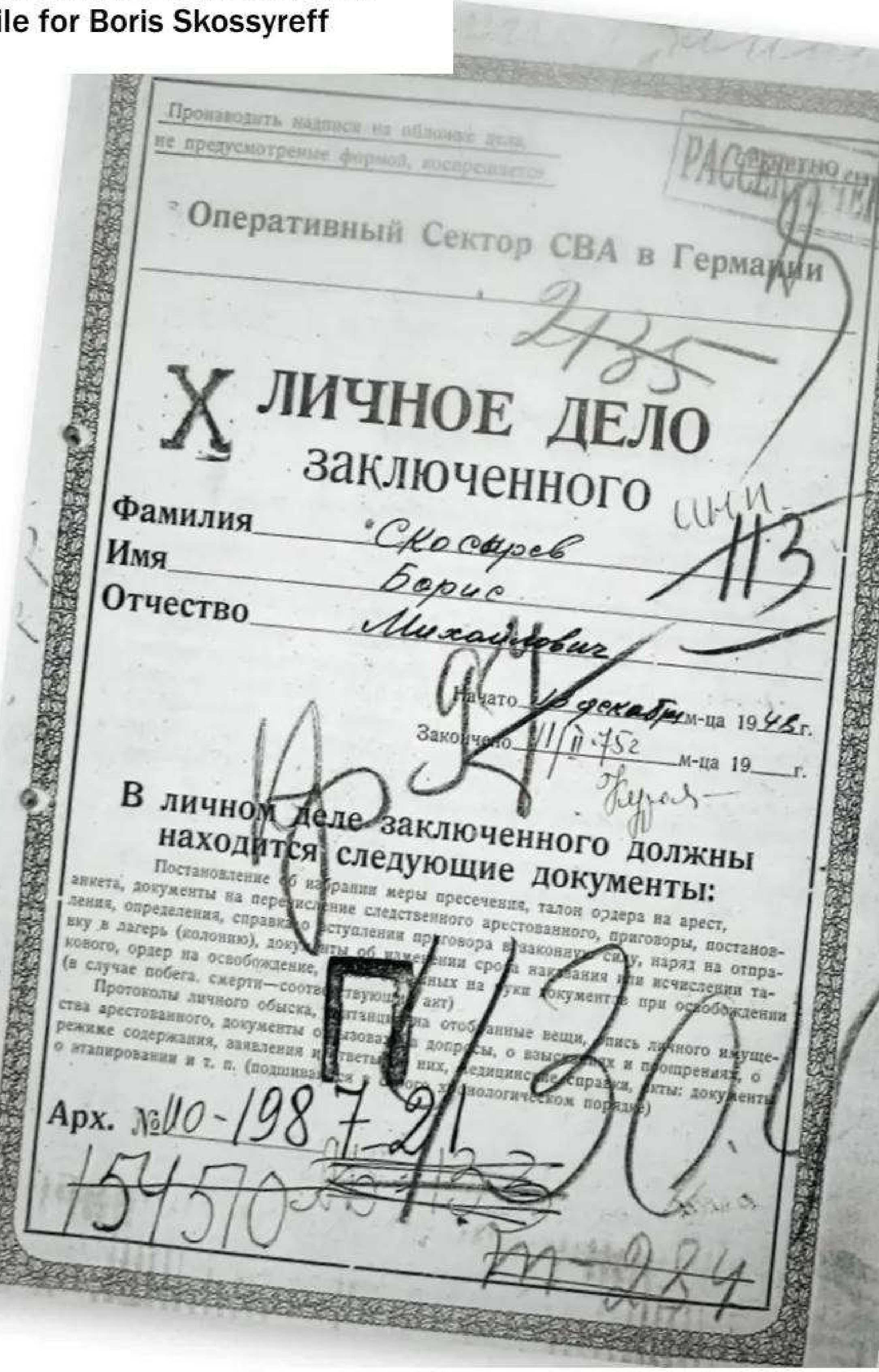
However, a 1948 US report on Soviet intelligence operations during World War II broke SMERSH down into 14 categories. These included the Staff Surveillance Directorate (responsible for monitoring military staff officers in Moscow), Troop Surveillance Directorate (further US documents reveal some 12 percent of the Soviet military during World War II acted as informants for counter-intelligence), Counter-Espionage Directorate (whose role was to conduct espionage operations in enemy territory), Investigation Directorate (whose role was to interrogate and investigate individuals deemed suspicious), Cipher Directorate and Troika – essentially a military court that could punish offensives without a hearing.

SMERSH units were also attached to frontline military groups. Robert Stephen's article *SMERSH: Soviet Military Counter-Intelligence during The Second World War*, states that captured German documents put the number of SMERSH personnel in these groups between 70 and 100, plus a 100-man guard unit.

The number of SMERSH operatives engaged in counter-intelligence seems to vary wildly. Stephen's previously mentioned article states that some "7,000-8,000 Soviet military counter-intelligence officers were engaged in or supported the running of agents against German intelligence services operating on the Eastern Front." However, Bernstein puts the number at 18-20,000. Primarily, it seems that their focus was identifying and eliminating German intelligence operations within the ranks of the Red Army itself.

A US Army intelligence report listed a variety of duties performed by SMERSH operatives, including "discover and prevent all counter-revolutionary tendencies and observe all counter-revolutionary elements", "execute and supervise 'special measures' behind Soviet lines to prevent retreat and desertion" and "expose Russian traitors who collaborated with the enemy during the occupation of Soviet territory."

SMERSH's reputation for dealing with traitors and saboteurs within the ranks of the Red



A SMERSH investigation file for Boris Skossyreff

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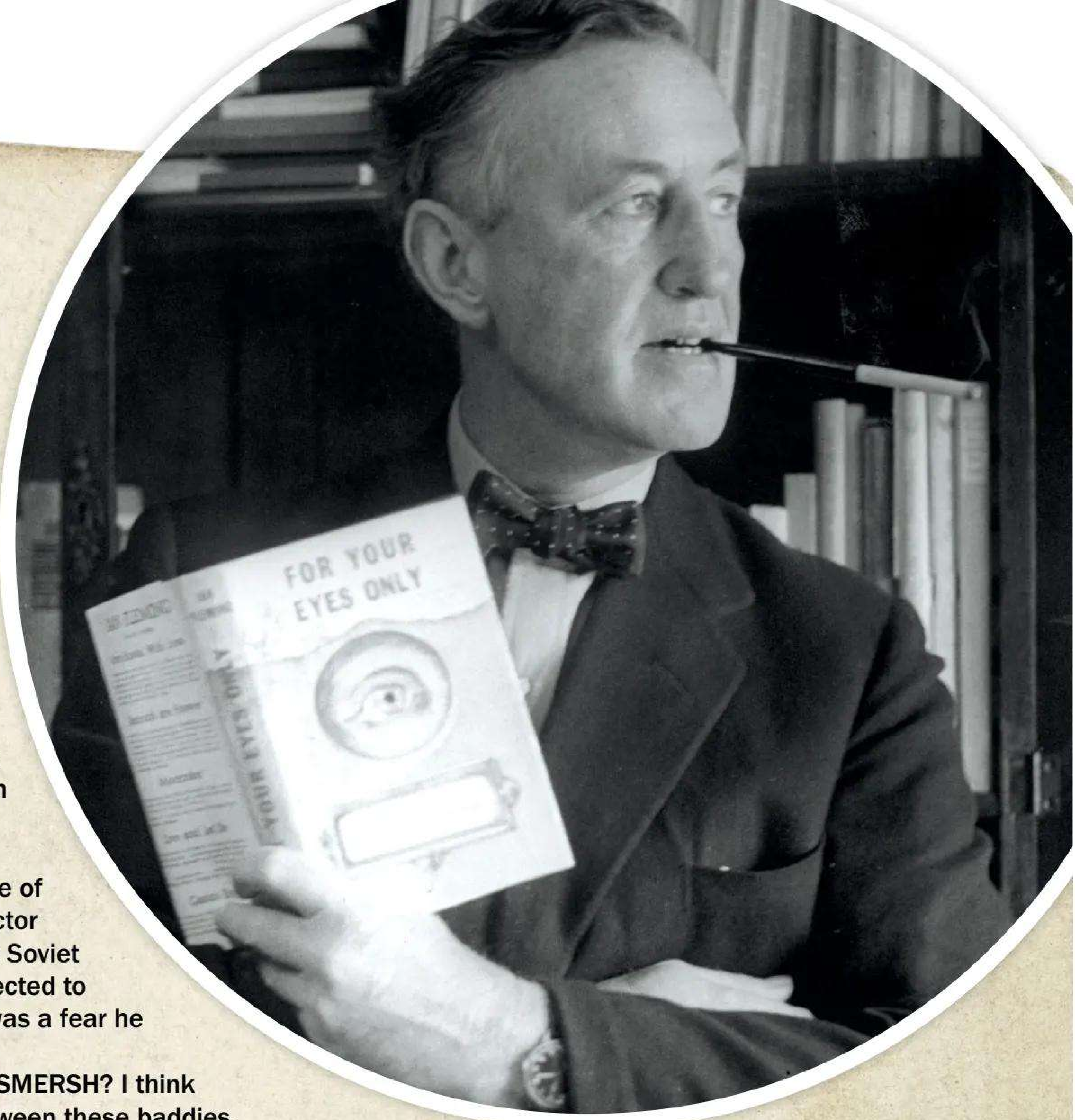
FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

WE DELVE DEEPER INTO THE STORY OF JAMES BOND AND SMERSH WITH IAN FLEMING BIOGRAPHER DR OLIVER BUCKTON



Who was Ian Fleming?

Ian Fleming is most famous as the author of the James Bond novels but he was actually in his 40s when he started writing these. He'd had a long career as a journalist, worked briefly as a banker and stockbroker, and was the assistant director of Naval Intelligence during WWII. A key part of Fleming's personality was that he was a fantasist – he wanted to turn ordinary, mundane reality into exciting plots.

Can you tell us something about the fictional version of SMERSH?

SMERSH acts as the organisation behind the villains in the novels up until *Thunderball*. That includes Mr Big in *Live And Let Die*, Hugo Drax in *Moonraker*, Red Grant and Rosa Klebb in *From Russia With Love* and Goldfinger, who acts as SMERSH's 'banker'. Its function in Soviet intelligence in the Bond novels is to create terror but it's also responsible for counter-espionage and routing out traitors. Even the villains who work for SMERSH are afraid of defying it. For example, Le Chiffre, the villain in *Casino Royale*, has embezzled money from SMERSH and he's willing to commit suicide rather than face the consequences.
A lot of people know about Bond through the films where SMERSH is not really the villain. In Fleming's books, having this menacing Soviet organisation was part of the propaganda function of the Bond novels, presenting the Soviet Union in the worst possible light and promoting Britain as still a world power.

What did Fleming know of the real SMERSH and why did he use it?

He knew it was a real organisation. He had travelled to Russia in the 1930s to cover the Metro-Vickers espionage trial and in 1939 he went to Russia again, ostensibly to cover a trade delegation but actually to write a report on the Soviet preparation for a war and the Soviet intelligence system.
Another important source of inspiration was the defector Grigori Topev, who was a Soviet rocket scientist who defected to Britain in 1947 – there was a fear he would be assassinated.

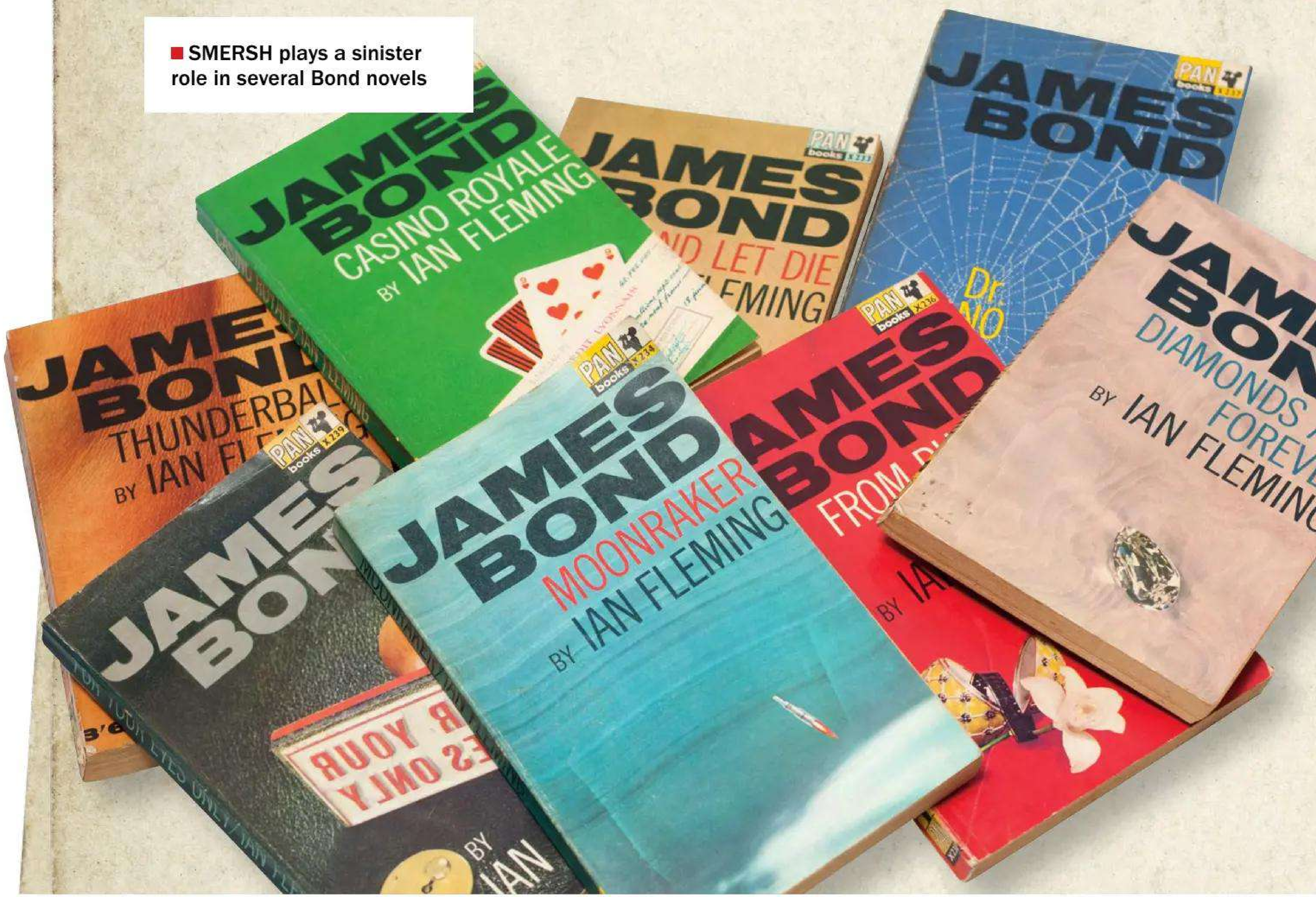
Why did Fleming use SMERSH? I think he sought continuity between these baddies, the sense of a larger organisation at work. He also needed to reflect the times. The Soviet Union, from Britain's perspective, was the main enemy against world peace and Western security, so SMERSH was the ideal organisation to [fictionally] sponsor all of these horrific Bond villains and create a sense of a global conspiracy.

Why did Fleming replace SMERSH with SPECTRE in later stories?

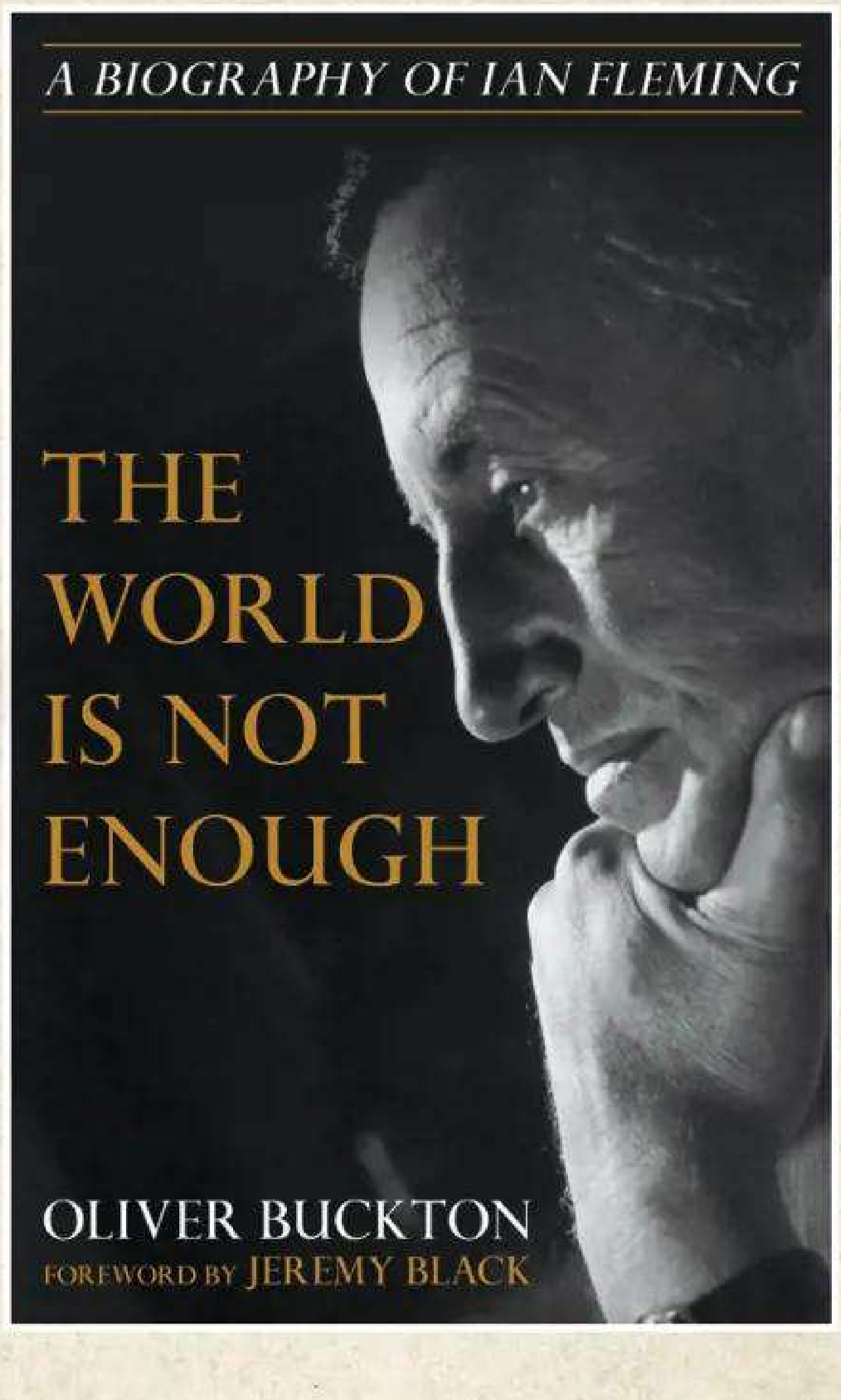
In the late-1950s Fleming worked on a screenplay called *Thunderball* with a film producer called Kevin McClory and a writer called Jack Whittingham. Nobody knew how long the Cold War would last, the fictional organisation 'SPECTRE' (Special Executive for Counter Intelligence, Revenge, Extortion) seemed like an idea that wouldn't date the film. Fleming wrote a novel based on *Thunderball* and it's the book in which he launches a whole new series with SPECTRE and its leader, Blofeld, as Bond's nemesis. It was part of Fleming's move to create a villain that would go beyond the Cold War. When Harry Saltzman and Albert Broccoli came to film *Dr No* they also replaced SMERSH with SPECTRE. They wanted to emphasise fantasy and escapism, not Cold War politics. SPECTRE is about extortion and terrorism but its agenda is not political as much as it's about grabbing power wherever it can.

EXPERT BIO

Dr Oliver Buckton is a professor of English at Florida Atlantic University and the author of *The World is Not Enough: A Biography of Ian Fleming* available online and from all good book stores now.



■ SMERSH plays a sinister role in several Bond novels



SPY HUNTER ON THE RUN

THE SOVIET AGENT WHO DEFECTED TO THE WEST

A real SMERSH agent, Nikolai Khokhlov, defected to the West in 1954. At the time his defection was something of a scandal as he revealed how he had been ordered to kill Ukrainian nationalists. In particular, he detailed how he had murdered their leader George Okolovich in Frankfurt with a cyanide gas-gun concealed in a packet of cigarettes. Khokhlov was also able to provide detailed information regarding the NKVD's 9th section, at that time the most up-to-date unit whose role was to assassinate enemies of the Soviet Union.

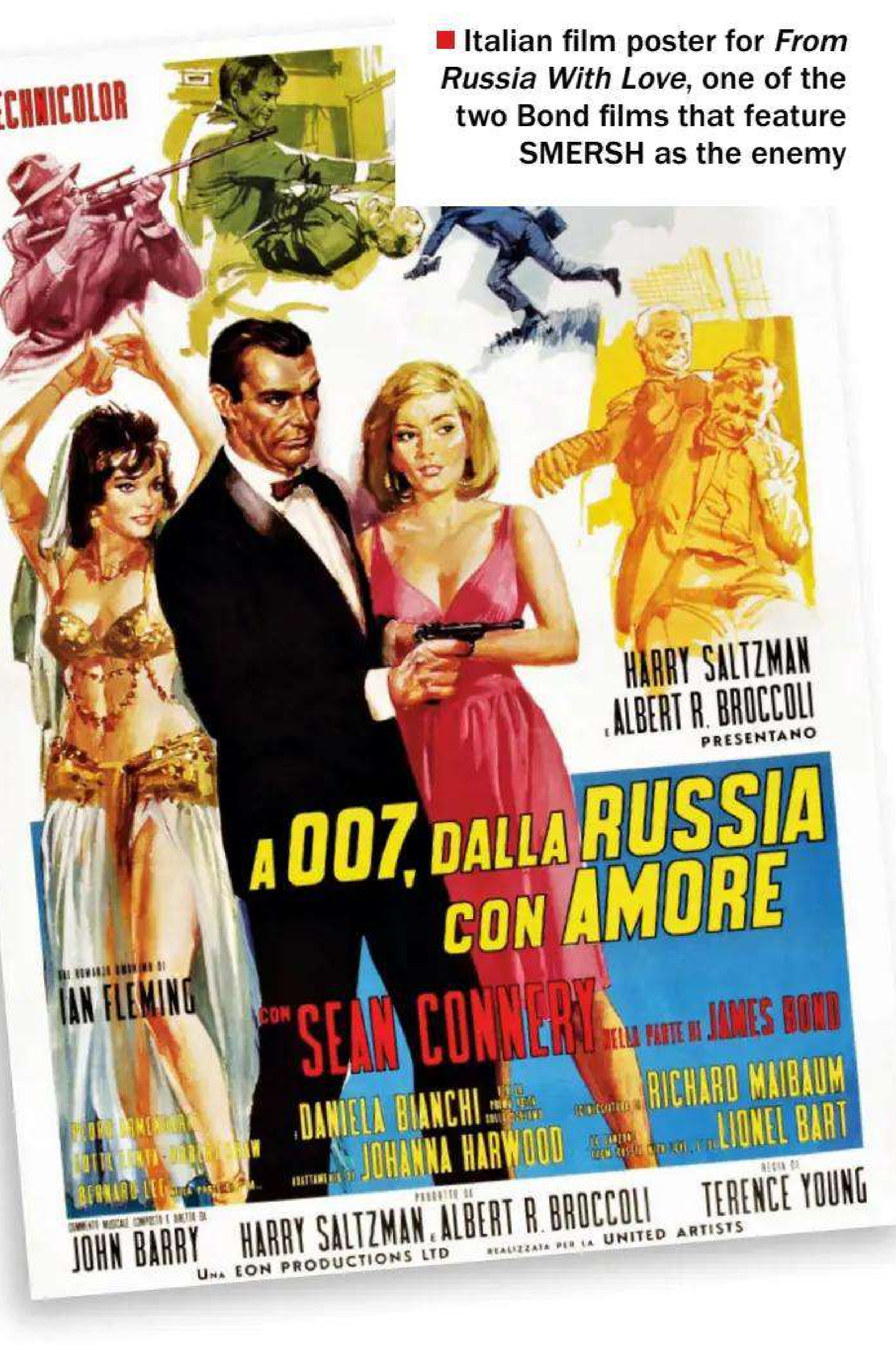
Viktor Abakumov (right) pictured shortly before he 'disappeared' in 1951

Army was brutal. The organisation claimed to have neutralised some 30,000 agents and 3,500 saboteurs, but how many of these were actually Nazi agents has been doubted. In fact, as the above directive states, SMERSH was just as involved in tracking down deserters and those critical of Soviet high command as they were chasing spies. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, who would later pen novels such as *One Day In The Life Of Ivan Denisovich* and *The Gulag Archipelago* would find himself in a Gulag as a result of SMERSH reading his letters in which he dared to criticise Stalin.

Perhaps most telling, however, were the SMERSH directives that stated, "root out foreign agents within the military as well as the civilian population that comes into contact with troops," and then "interrogate agents to exploit their knowledge about foreign intelligence services." Along with this their counter-intelligence tasks appear to be relatively standard work for agents of this nature, such as obtaining information on enemy agents, planting false intelligence to mislead other services (such as sending SMERSH agent Alexander Koslov to the German intelligence school to spread misinformation), using undercover operatives and spying upon their own – especially those deemed to be unreliable. SMERSH was particularly adept at recruiting captured German operatives to become double agents, simultaneously distributing false information to the German high command and gathering intelligence for the Kremlin. Supposedly, SMERSH officers were even responsible for the security of Stalin himself.

Following the end of World War II, SMERSH became involved in some of the less-savoury activities of the Allies, namely the repatriation of the Cossacks and other Tsarist loyalists by Britain. Perhaps the greatest prize for SMERSH among the 45,000 individuals forcibly sent to the Soviet Union was General Pyotr Nikolayevich Krasnov. An officer of the Imperial Russian Army and leader of the anti-Bolshevik forces during the Civil War of 1917-1922, Krasnov had long evaded capture. During World War II he had supported Nazi Germany, before being captured in Austria. Following the war's end, Krasnov was delivered, along with other Cossacks, by the British into Soviet hands. Flown directly to Moscow, senior officers of SMERSH reportedly travelled miles just to see him board his plane. Once back in Russia he was interrogated and imprisoned before finally being hanged at the age of 78. Interestingly, though not utilised in print by Ian Fleming, the repatriation of the Cossacks would go on to be a key plot point in the 1995 James Bond film *Goldeneye*.

SMERSH's other post-war work focussed on the systematic hunting down and killing of Nazi sympathisers throughout Eastern Europe. Networks of agents were formed in the Ukraine, Poland and the Baltic republics to seek out individuals who still had an allegiance to the Third Reich. SMERSH was also heavily involved in crushing any resistance to Soviet rule, namely partisan groups that existed in these countries. One particular operation took place in Poland in the summer of 1944. During the German occupation the partisan movement the Council for National Unity had been formed and as a result of the Yalta accords had agreed to negotiate directly with the Soviet Union. Arranging to meet with the NKVD's Poland chief Ivan Serov (a high-ranking officer who would later become the first head of the KGB) the group were immediately arrested. Among their number (16 over all) were the deputy prime minister and three of his assistants. Soviet intelligence operations



Italian film poster for *From Russia With Love*, one of the two Bond films that feature SMERSH as the enemy

“IN 1946, THE ORGANISATION THAT PREACHED ‘DEATH TO SPIES’ UNDERWENT A DEATH OF ITS OWN”

in Poland would continue for some time after the end of the war and into the early 1950s, and included interfering in the June 1946 referendum and the 1947 election. Thousands of arrests were also made. Indeed, in 1947 SMERSH's replacement, the Third Directorate, placed 32,800 individuals in jail in that year alone.

Why was SMERSH no longer handling these operations? In 1946, the organisation that preached ‘death to spies’ had undergone a death of its own: it was officially disbanded and all duties transferred over to the Ministry For State Security. The organisation itself was absorbed into the aforementioned Third Directorate, which might help explain their use of similar tactics during the campaign against Polish partisan groups. Following the death of Stalin, this organisation would finally be reorganised in 1953.

And what of Abakumov, SMERSH'S brutal and sinister chief? In the later years of Stalin's regime, Abakumov's past began to catch up with him. In 1949 he had been a key component of the ‘Leningrad affair’ and in 1951 Stalin had him arrested in conjunction with the so-called ‘Doctors' Plot’. Viewed as the culmination of Stalin's anti-Semitic campaign (as well as yet another means of consolidating his power) it involved the Soviet leader accusing a group of Jewish doctors as well as Abakumov of poisoning Andrei Zhdanov (a respected Soviet leader). Following Stalin's death in 1953, his successors tried Abakumov for his role in the Leningrad affair, a vast and vicious purging of high-ranking party and government officials in the Leningrad area, and he was executed.

A 1955 CIA report explored the many issues surrounding Abakumov's execution and the contradictions in his trial. The report concluded: “Abakumov had been arrested and was shot at the present time because, as minister of the MGB, he was the most efficient and intelligent one in the history of the USSR. He was shot because he had free access to Stalin, because he had audio-surveillance put on the houses of all the members of the Politburo and all marshals of the Soviet Union. As a result, Abakumov was well acquainted with all the doings of the Communist Party and therefore had become the worst enemy of its leaders.”

However, as to be expected, the report is somewhat anti-USSR and some of its conclusions and statements have to be taken with a pinch of salt. For example, when discussing the stance that Soviet media and propaganda had taken on Abakumov's death and the public reaction it stated: “The majority of the Soviet Union don't believe what is in the papers. They've been so flooded with propaganda that they no longer pay any attention to it. The newspapers are useful for only a few things, such as wrapping fish.”

Today, like so much of intelligence history, there is still so much that remains unknown about SMERSH, its agents and many secret operations. The murky world of Soviet espionage in WWII and the period immediately following still has many secrets waiting to be uncovered, and perhaps many of them were taken to the grave by operatives from all sides. Today, SMERSH is still perhaps best-known as one of the nemeses of James Bond, and the consistently reprinted and reread Fleming novels keep the organisation (albeit in fictional form) alive.

Communal grave of unclaimed ashes number three, where individuals executed secretly by the NKVD were interred. Pyotr Krasnov is suspected to be among their number

Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, who Viktor Abakumov reported to directly

Image source: Getty Images, Alamy, Shutterstock, wiki/National Library of Congress

THE SWORD AND SHIELD REVISITED

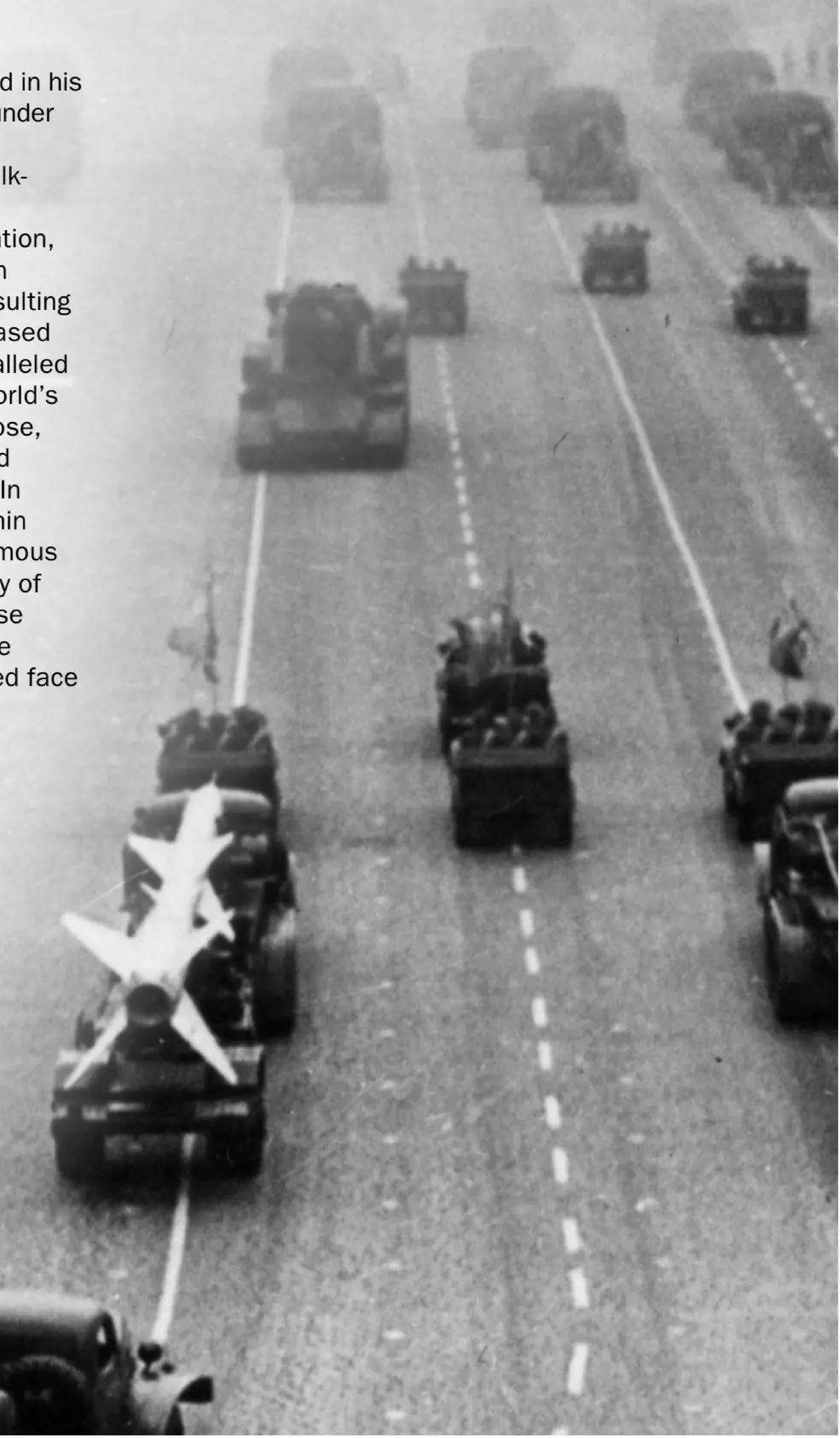
Operating in the shadows of the Cold War, the Soviet KGB grew to become the largest state security service in the world

A year after the collapse of the Soviet Union, a former KGB officer named Vasili Mitrokhin walked into the British Embassy in Latvia. There was nothing unusual about walk-in defectors, claiming access to caches of Soviet secrets, but something about the shabbily dressed Mitrokhin and his story struck the on-duty staff as different. They offered him a cup of tea and he opened a suitcase that was stuffed full of dirty underwear and classified documents.

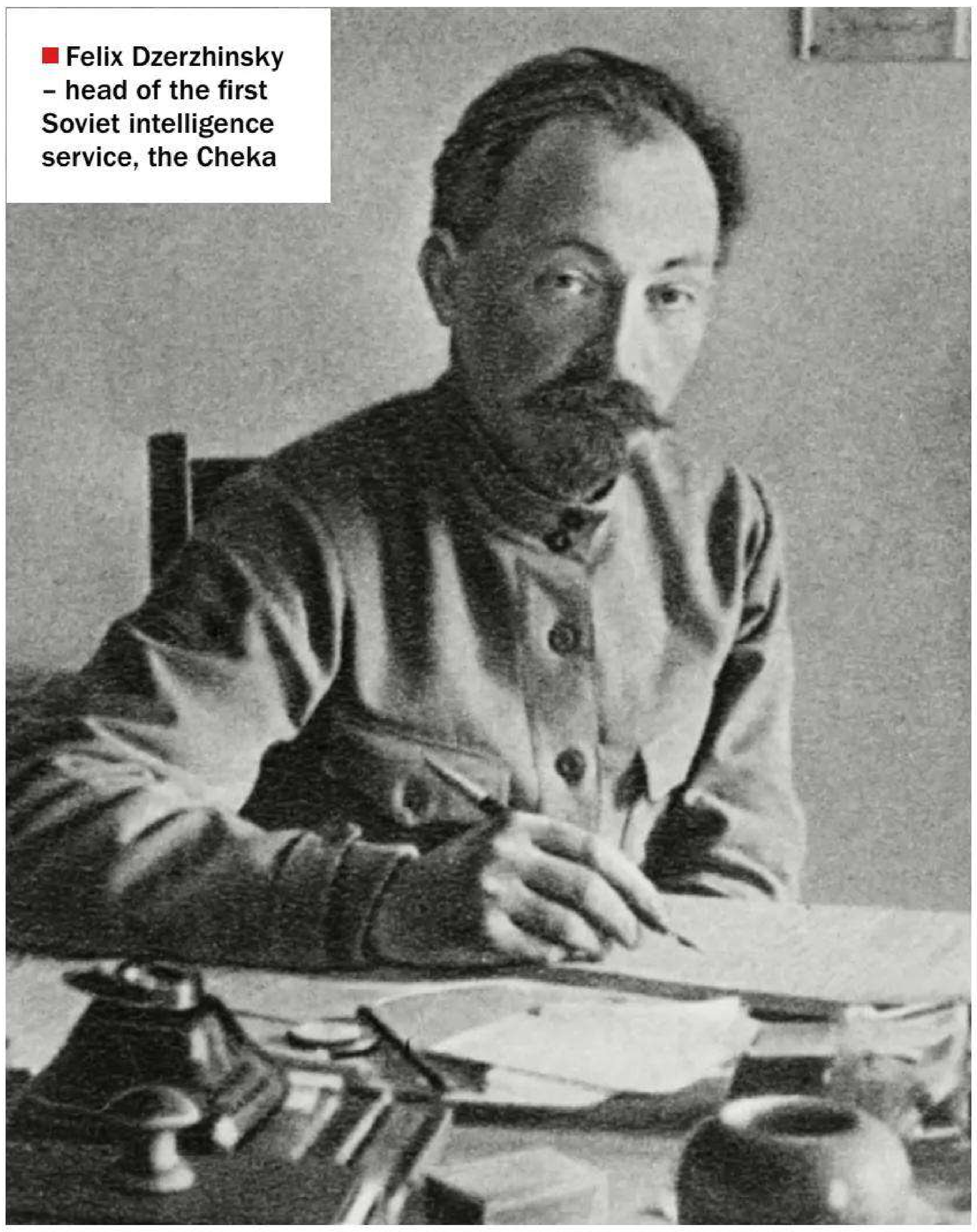
As head archivist for the KGB, Mitrokhin had unprecedented access to the organisation's records. In 1972 he had been tasked with moving the entire archive from the increasingly overcrowded Lubyanka headquarters in Moscow to a new facility in the more remote Yasenevo district – a task that would take 12 years to complete. Already disillusioned, the officer started taking detailed handwritten notes of the documents, which he smuggled, concealed in his shoes, to his dacha – and stashed them under the floorboards.

In the months following his Latvian walk-in, Mitrokhin would help to transfer more than 20,000 pages of top-secret information, dating as far back as 1918, to the British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6). The resulting revelations, presented in two books released before Mitrokhin's death, offer an unparalleled insight into the activities of one of the world's most clandestine organisations and expose, in his own words, just how thin the thread of peace really was during the Cold War. In amassing his collection of notes, Mitrokhin must have known he was taking an enormous personal risk. The KGB had a dark history of dealing with those who betrayed the cause – death sentences were carried out in the Lubyanka building and traitors were buried face down in unmarked graves.

> "THE KGB HAD A DARK HISTORY OF DEALING WITH THOSE WHO BETRAYED THE CAUSE – DEATH SENTENCES WERE CARRIED OUT [...] AND TRAITORS WERE BURIED FACE DOWN IN UNMARKED GRAVES"



ВЧК - КГБ



Felix Dzerzhinsky – head of the first Soviet intelligence service, the Cheka

THE RED IN YOUR BED

As the KGB graduated from the crimson techniques of the Cheka to more non-violent methods, the playbook of intelligence tactics had to be refined. The use of blackmail with compromising material – now known by its Russian name, Kompromat – became one of the most effective weapons used by the KGB to take care of political housekeeping.

Although the material sometimes involved financial or criminal indiscretions, it was more often than not sexual in nature. Commonly using Intourist hotels with bugged 'plus rooms,' the KGB would deploy prostitutes to acquire embarrassing material to be used for leverage. A classic case in 1957 saw a young British naval attache named John Vassall, photographed in compromising positions with numerous men while drunk at a Moscow party and blackmailed into working for the KGB. His betrayal netted Soviet intelligence thousands of classified documents that aided in the development of the Red Navy.

In modern Russia, Kompromat was used to destroy the career of the prosecutor general, Yury Skuratov, who in 1999 was investigating corruption in the administration of Boris Yeltsin. When a grainy video of someone resembling Skuratov in bed with two young women was released, the perfect timing led many to suspect intelligence services involvement. Tasked with verifying the video on television was the head of the FSB – and future Russian president – Vladimir Putin.

Blood on the shield

The Cold War KGB traced its roots to the establishment of the first Soviet state security organisation – the Cheka – which was created after the Bolshevik revolution on 20 December 1917. The Cheka was led by the Polish-born former aristocrat Felix Dzerzhinsky – dubbed Iron Felix. As the Bolsheviks embarked on their great communist experiment, the political leaders realised that concentrating the means of production in the hands of the state would require the support of an ever-vigilant security apparatus. They were dedicated to the dirty work of disposing of enemies of the people, and more specifically, the party.

The Soviet system would have to be protected against attacks from the remnants of the old order and the 'agents of imperialism' who would seek to destroy the new regime. The Cheka's most effective method of dealing with opposition was terror – wholesale indiscriminate arrests, summary executions without trial and grotesque torture methods. Despite the blood-stained actions of the organisation, Dzerzhinsky's description of a Chekist as a man with "a warm heart, a cool head and clean hands" would become the catchphrase of KGB training manuals. Officers would proudly refer to themselves as Chekists – receiving their pay regularly on the 20th of each month, a date that was in honour of the day the Cheka was founded. The 20 December still stands as a professional holiday in the Russian calendar – the day of national security service workers. It was Dzerzhinsky who chose the shield and sword design that became the symbol of the KGB – representing the defence of the state and the smiting of enemies. Until 1991, an iron statue of the Cheka chief stood in front of the KGB headquarters in Moscow, the former offices of the All-Russian Insurance company, seized in 1917.

Like its predecessor, the KGB existed not to protect the people from the excesses of the state, but rather to ensure the survival of the state and the ideology of the state, from those who would threaten it, whether at home or abroad. It wasn't always known as the KGB, however, as the Soviet intelligence service renamed itself seven times before settling on the initialism in March 1954, standing for 'Komitet gosudarstvennoy bezopasnosti' (committee for state security). As Lenin's "dictatorship of the proletariat" gave way to Stalin's cult of personality, the revolutionary zeal of the security apparatus only grew with each renaming.

Inquisitorial techniques, show trials and unexplainable purges were the hallmarks of Stalinist rule – as party organs were removed, and both dissidents and party faithfuls alike were brutally dispensed with. An oft-repeated joke of the time sees the security service arrive at a home at night, only to be told: "Wrong house, the communists are next door."

Speaking in 1937, at a party gathering to celebrate the Bolshevik Revolution, Joseph Stalin succinctly summarised the nightmarish pre-occupation of the Soviet intelligence services with a terrifying ultimatum, saying: "We will mercilessly destroy anyone who by his deeds or thoughts, yes thoughts, threatens the unity of the socialist state." As Lenin famously noted: "Trust is good, control is better." Fear would inspire obedience, and the state security apparatus as the primary tool of fear would ensure order by seeking out and destroying enemies – both real and imaginary – judged by their actions, or even their thoughts.

The Khrushchev thaw

Following Stalin's death in 1953, Nikita Khrushchev became leader of the Soviet Union. Using his skills as a politician, he denounced the role of the security services in past political excesses, as official party doctrine shifted away from the ferocious orthodoxy of Bolshevik and Stalinist rule. The KGB was established in 1954, coinciding with Khrushchev's campaign of societal reforms and liberalisation. Previously banned artists were introduced, political prisoners rehabilitated and international relations improved. Khrushchev's denunciation of Stalin in 1956, in a pivotal speech delivered to delegates at the 20th Party Congress in Moscow, became emblematic of the period now know as the 'Khrushchev Thaw'. Liberalisation and de-Stalinisation would have a negative impact on the status of the security organs in the Khrushchev era, though.

The KGB's first chairman in 1954 was Ivan Serov, who had organised deportations in Ukraine and the Baltics, and helped to build the East German secret police, the Stasi. Like Khrushchev, Serov was of the old Stalinist school. He boasted of being able to break every bone in a man's body without killing him and coordinated the bloody Soviet reaction to the Hungarian Uprising in 1956. However, his tenure as chairman was punctuated with several significant defections of KGB officers to the West and Serov's reputation as a butcher soon became too much of a diplomatic embarrassment for the reforming Khrushchev.

Khrushchev aimed to improve the image of the Soviet Union around the world, releasing millions of prisoners from the Gulag penitentiaries and transforming how the security services dealt with internal dissent. Although famous outside the Soviet Union for its foreign intelligence operations, the KGB fulfilled a variety of domestic security functions – investigating individuals for political and economic crime, and overseeing

ACTIVE MEASURES

POLITICIAL OPPONENTS THAT ENDED UP IN THE SIGHTS OF 'THE LONG SWORD'

1940

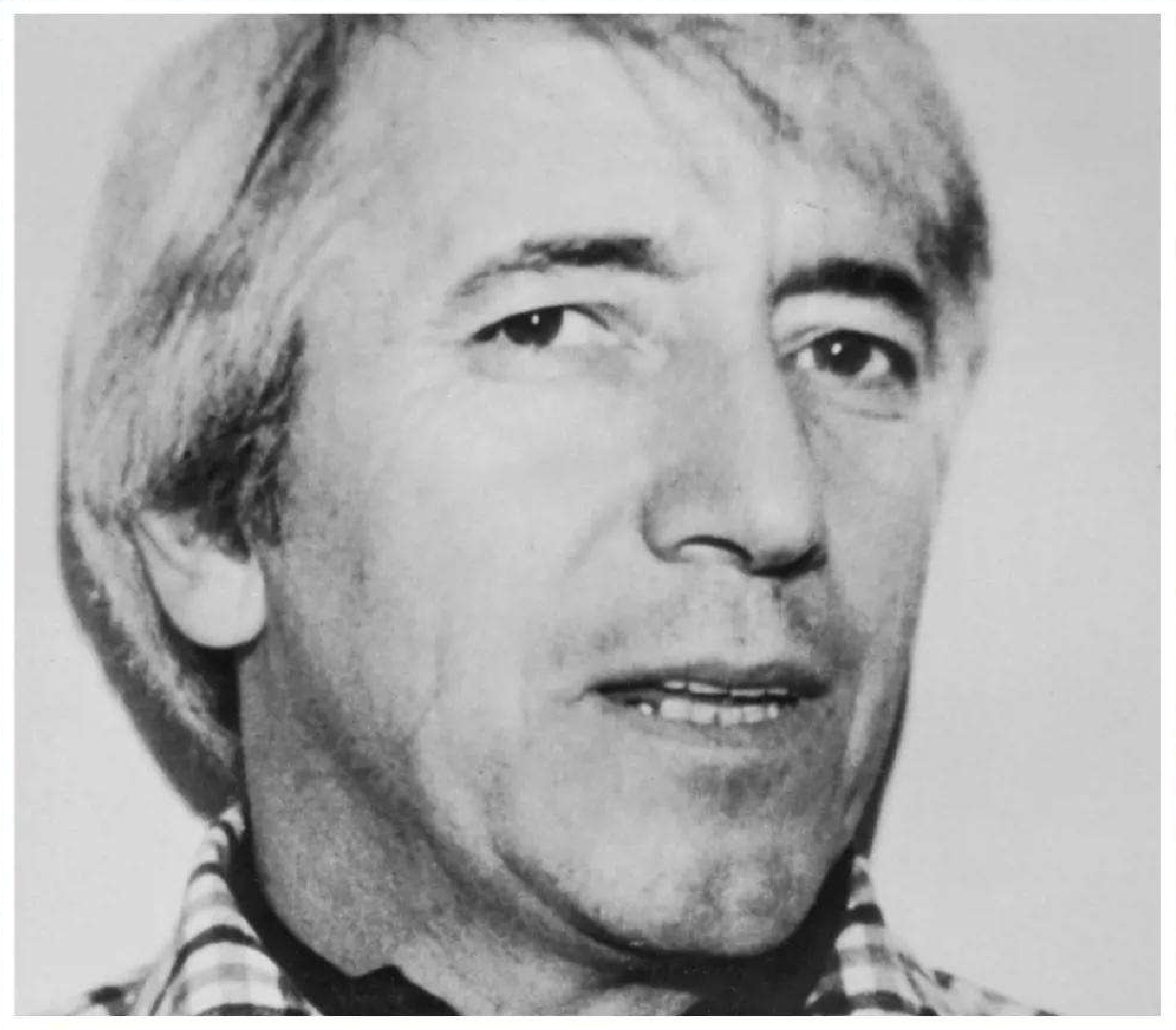
LEON TROTSKY

The brutal murder of Stalin's most vocal opponent in 1940 sent an important message to similar critics throughout the world. Exiled from the Soviet Union in 1929, the former head of the Red Army settled in Mexico City, only to be bludgeoned to death by an ice-pick-wielding assassin.

1957 + 1959

STEPAN BANDERA AND LEV REBET

KGB assassin Bogdan Stashinsky assassinated both of these Ukrainian nationalists, armed with a spray gun capable of delivering a lethal dose of cyanide. His defection to West Berlin and subsequent trial proved such an embarrassment for the KGB that assassinations outside the Soviet Bloc became much less frequent.



1978

GEORGI MARKOV

A vocal opponent of the Bulgarian regime of Todor Zhikov, dissident writer Georgi Markov was shot with a poison pellet containing ricin, fired from an umbrella gun of KGB design, whilst waiting at a bus stop in London. Part of the pellet dissolved, allowing the poison to enter Markov's bloodstream and kill him.

1979

PRESIDENT HAFIZULLAH AMIN

Afghan leader Hafizullah Amin was killed after his Tajbeg Palace compound was stormed by an assault team led by KGB special forces – having already survived three Soviet assassination attempts. His death would coincide with a buildup of Soviet forces in the region and the start of almost ten years of occupation and war.

censorship and state propaganda. The Second Chief Directorate and later the Fifth Chief Directorate would counter manifestations of political unreliability at home.

Other KGB tasks included protecting the Soviet land and sea border (Border Guards Directorate), providing bodyguards for state officials (Ninth Directorate) and maintaining telephone and radio systems used by the state agencies (Sixteenth Directorate). Following Serov's removal, the new chairman, Alexander Shelepin, began to push for a more sophisticated intelligence service, removed from the brutality of the past. During his tenure (1958-1961), an influx of university graduates were appointed to replace the old guard.

Twisted psychiatry

The post-Stalin humanism of the Khrushchev era meant KGB officers were no longer inspired to beat or torture dissidents for confessions. Murder became less a tool of enforcing state control for fear of international outrage, and foreign political assassinations were largely curtailed as KGB officers began to worry about looking ineffective while fighting internal dissent.

The solution was simple. Any dissident would be diagnosed with 'sluggish schizophrenia' – a disorder developed by a psychiatrist who believed that anyone who opposed the Soviet regime must be mentally unwell. As British commentator Francis Wheen observed: "If Being determined consciousness, as the revolutionary articles of faith maintained, then it was impossible to have an anti Socialist consciousness in a Socialist society. Anyone who questioned or criticised Soviet policy must be displaying symptoms of such a consciousness, and must therefore be mad."

This form of so-called schizophrenia was categorised by deviant behaviour, and anyone diagnosed was stripped of their rights and sent to a psychiatric hospital – diminutively known as a Psikhushka. KGB chairman Yuri Andropov fully institutionalised the practice in 1969 and thousands were imprisoned in hospitals for months or even years. Nobel laureate Alexander Solzhenitsyn described this practice of punitive psychiatry as "spiritual murder." Protest while in captivity was pointless, as every complaint lodged in a patient's record was more proof of insanity. The aim was to break them physically and mentally, with drugs and electric shocks prescribed as 'treatment'.

> "FOR… THE KGB, THIS CHAOTIC PERIOD ONLY REAFFIRMED THEIR BELIEF IN THE NEED TO SUPPRESS INTERNAL DISSENT"

The Khrushchev-era societal reforms would be short-lived and mostly reversed as he was succeeded by the more myopic Leonid Brezhnev in 1964, but the atmosphere at the time would forever define how the KGB operated internally. New sophisticated techniques would be developed to replace the brutality of the original Cheka.

Krushchev's policies of liberalisation at home brought considerable changes to Soviet society during a period marked by uprisings in the Soviet satellite states – in 1953 in East Germany and in 1956 in Poland and Hungary. Each time they were violently suppressed by Soviet forces. Maintaining the "integrity of international socialism" and Soviet hegemony in the Eastern Bloc became a priority.

The KGB would serve as an essential tool in enforcing what, following the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, became known as the 'Brezhnev Doctrine' – a policy KGB chief Yuri Andropov would be responsible for shaping.

Andropov's "Hungarian complex"

While serving as Soviet ambassador to Hungary during the 1956 uprising, the future KGB chief witnessed how quickly a seemingly all-powerful communist state could be toppled by a popular uprising. This was something that haunted him for the rest of his life. Andropov went on to become the longest-serving head of the KGB, and followed his 15-year tenure by succeeding Leonid Brezhnev as Soviet leader in 1982. His Hungarian experience had confirmed for the KGB chairman the necessity of armed force in dealing with dissent in Soviet satellite states and the need for KGB involvement outside of Russia, halting resistance that would otherwise spread to the Motherland.

The KGB would expend vast amount of resources and energy on foreign operations, either in satellite states or against the 'Imperialist forces' – in particular the 'main adversary,' the United States. So-called 'Active Measures' – political assassinations, the spreading of disinformation, the financing of terrorist groups and so on – would go hand-in-glove with ordinary intelligence gathering, to attempt to discredit Western democracies and destabilise the globe in favour of the Soviets.

From the time of the Cheka, infiltration of foreign powers and interference of foreign affairs were considered essential tactics to defend the world's first worker-peasant state. Early successes in foreign operations were mainly in industrial espionage, and during the Stalin years the procurement of atomic secrets from the United States. Legal agents, utilising official diplomatic cover, proved an important resource. For instance, in 1962, KGB Washington legal Alexander Feklisov, who had been case officer in the Soviet Atomic Spy Ring, aided in resolving the Cuban Missile Crisis.

However, it was the use of 'illegals' – agents living under deep cover abroad – that would earn the KGB its reputation. Overseen by the agency's most secretive department, Directorate S, the use of illegals would become a cornerstone in foreign intelligence gathering. Even when their deep cover was blown, these operations served as propaganda for the Soviets, demonstrating the iron-jawed dedicated of their agents taking the fight to the enemy, spending years living under false names and building credible backgrounds. Before embarking on an operation, these sleeper agents would swear allegiance to the Motherland "with every heartbeat, with every day that passes." The exposing of Soviet illegal Rudolf Abel in 1957 led to one of the most widely known incidents in Cold War spycraft, as Abel was exchanged for U2 pilot Gary Powers, downed while on a top-secret CIA mission over the Soviet Union. KGB interference abroad and the success of worldwide operations, whether in Britain with the Cambridge Five or the 'main adversary' of the United States, would eventually mean nothing in the face of instability at home.

The bitter end

Backstabbing and betrayal was not uncommon in the political manoeuvring that marked the

VLADIMIR PUTIN - THE ETERNAL CHEKIST

Serving as a KGB officer for 17 years, Vladimir Putin joined the intelligence services in 1975, serving with the First and Second Chief Directorate. Being fluent in German, his linguistic skills saw him working undercover for five years in East Germany from 1985, posing as a translator and rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Although his KGB past is often mentioned in news stories, his achievements in the KGB are actually believed to have been of little note. What is more notable is the fact that Putin has proudly embraced his Chekist past. His time in the intelligence service played an important role in establishing Putin's credentials as a dedicated patriot and enabling his rise to power.

After being a loyal worker for nearly two decades, his resignation from the KGB transpired on 20 August 1991. This was the second day of the Kryuchkov-led coup attempt and no doubt impressed then prime minister Boris Yeltsin, who oversaw Putin's fast-track to director of the Federal Security Service (FSB). Following Yeltsin's shock resignation on 31 December 1999, Putin was made acting president, and confirmed the following year. His first presidential order was to ensure corruption charges against Yeltsin were not pursued. The struggle for Russia's post-Soviet political soul has mostly been fought between the so-called siloviki (former security services members) and oligarchs (the new rich). The siloviki must have been overjoyed at Putin's rise to power – a former intelligence officer happy to surround himself with colleagues from his earlier calling is a natural ally.

transition of power in the Soviet Union. The security services and members of the Politburo often conspired against each other and were equally purged as fortunes changed.

In 1953, shortly after the death of Joseph Stalin, security chief Lavrenti Beria, tipped by some as the next leader, was removed from his position and executed – sharing the fate of his predecessors, Yagoda and Yezhov. Stalin's eventual successor, Nikita Khrushchev, would endeavour to limit the potency of the KGB – having led the plot against Beria, fearing the security chief was "getting his knives ready." Numerous KGB chairmen sought to make the leap to leadership before Yuri Andropov's success in 1982.

When in 1991 a coup d'état was launched against the regime of Mikhail Gorbachev, it was the KGB head Vladimir Kryuchkov who led the attempt. Contemptuous of the liberalisation of society, he hatched a plan in a Moscow bathhouse that was ultimately destined to fail. Commentators at the time joked that communism in Russia must be over if the Bolsheviks couldn't even mount an effective coup. Political dissent that would have been swiftly stamped out under the rule of Brezhnev or Stalin, instead found space in Soviet society under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, and policy demands that would previously have been classed as subversive, instead became mainstream. Increased transparency, market reforms and democratisation accompanied the liberalisation of Eastern Europe, as Moscow's grip on the satellite states loosened.

On Christmas Day in 1991, the hammer and sickle flag was lowered over the Kremlin for the last time. For those inside the KGB, this chaotic period only reaffirmed their belief in the need to suppress internal dissent and preserve the ruling order. However, as a result of their involvement in the attempted coup, the organisation was retired on 6 December 1991 and carved up into two new institutions: the FSB secret police agency and the SVR espionage agency.

In the mid-1990s, the word 'silovik' entered common use in Russia, to refer to former members of the military and security services who had since made the move to become politicians. They believed in a centralised system for law and order, and were prepared to use strong-arm tactics to restrict press freedom and silence opposition voices. Since then, the silovik have become influential in shaping Kremlin policy, occupying key ministerial positions throughout the government. The sword and shield still casts a long shadow over modern Russia.

The Lubyanka building in Moscow – the original headquarters for the KGB

Once the headquarters of the KGB, Moscow's Lubyanka building is now home to its successor, the Federal Security Service

THE SUCCESSORS TO THE KGB

In 1991, the USSR collapsed and took the KGB with it. As Russia faced the future, new agencies rose to take its place

WORDS **CATHERINE CURZON**

In November 1991, the KGB was dismantled in the wake of a failed coup after more than 30 years as the "sword and shield of the Communist Party". Within a month, President Boris Yeltsin had created two new agencies that would take on its directorates. These were the Foreign Intelligence Service (Russia), known as the SVR, and the Federal Agency of Government Communications and Information, known as FAPSI. The SVR, which still exists, is responsible for intelligence and espionage outside Russia, whilst FAPSI, which was dissolved in 2003, was the authority on signals intelligence and government communication security. Weeks later, these were joined by the Ministry of Security, which would be responsible for domestic and border security.

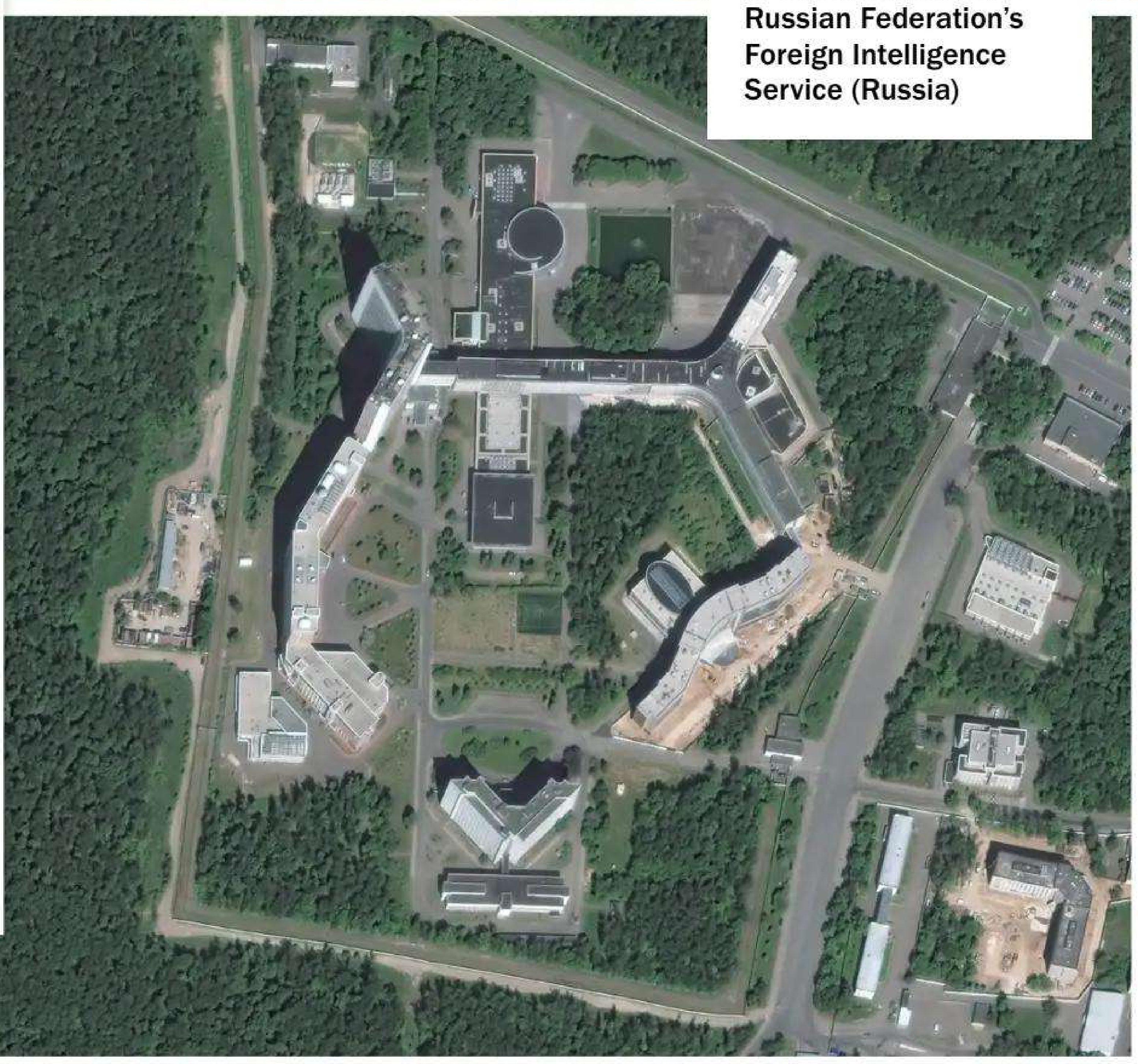
In 1993, following the constitutional crisis in the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Security was restructured to become the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service (FSK). Though this new agency would only last for two years, it was the true successor to the KGB as the principal security agency of the Russian Federation. In 1995, the FSK was renamed as the Federal Security Service (FSB). Its headquarters are in the former KGB building in Lubyanka Square.

The new FSB holds responsibility for domestic matters including but not limited to internal and external border security, counterterrorism, counter-intelligence and surveillance. It also has the power to investigate some of the most serious crimes and violations of Russian federal law. The FSB does not hold all of the powers of the old KGB, however, with some being enjoyed by the SVR, the Federal Protective Service (FSO), which was established in 1996 to oversee the protection of high-ranking state officials, and the Main Directorate of Special Programs of the President of the Russian Federation (GUSP),

Whilst these agencies report to the president, the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation (GRU) answers directly to Russian military command, namely the Chief of the General Staff and the Minister of Defence. The GRU was formed in 1992 as the Main Intelligence Directorate and is the foreign military intelligence wing of the Russian security services. It is noted for its involvement in risky operations, sometimes with the highest stakes. Though the KGB may be gone, its functions are not at an end. Instead they have been shared across several bodies, each with its own specific portfolio and powers. Together, they form the ironclad backbone of the Russian Federation's powerful security agencies.

ГЛАВНОЕ РАЗВЕДЫВАТЕЛЬНОЕ УПРАВЛЕНИЕ
ГЕНЕРАЛЬНОГО ШТАБА ВООРУЖЕННЫХ СИЛ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

Vladimir Putin joined the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation to mark their anniversary



The sprawling SVR complex deep inside Moscow is the heart of operations for the Russian Federation's Foreign Intelligence Service (Russia)

Images: Alamy, Getty, Wiki - A Savin CC BY-SA 3.0

MOSSAD

Step into the murky world of Israel's famed intelligence agency and discover some of the breathtaking missions it's accomplished in the name of national defence

WORDS **CHARLES GINGER**

באין תחבולות יפול עם
ותשועה ברוב יועץ

■ Mossad employs approximately 7,000 people and has an annual budget of $3 billion. To date it has had 13 directors, the first of whom was Reuven Shiloah

Salameh was on his way to his niece's birthday party when he was assassinated on Madam Curie Road in Beirut

They'd shadowed the target for months, studying his every move, waiting for the perfect opportunity. Now here it was, the moment to send this enemy of Israel to meet his maker. He would regret becoming so complacent, no longer changing his routine, always driving down the same roads where once he would have switched back or taken a late turn. The time had come for him to pay for his arrogance. It would be his final lesson, a reminder wrought in flames: no matter where you go, they will find you. When it comes to the hunt, they never give up. This is war in the shadows, and the darkness is closing in. You started this. Now Mossad is going to finish it.

Ghosts in the machine

Israel was barely a year old and already it had been forced to win a savage conflict to prevent its annihilation. The 1948-49 Arab-Israeli War cost thousands of lives, but it also revealed to Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion what his nation required if it was going to survive. A particularly pressing need was a centralised organisation that would enable the security services to coordinate their efforts. On 13 December 1949, the Central Institute for Coordination was founded, a body that would oversee AMAN (military intelligence), Shin Bet (internal security) and Mossad (foreign intelligence). Cloaked in secrecy, Mossad's very existence was not to be publicly acknowledged (even saying its name was illegal until the 1960s).

Reporting solely to the PM as opposed to the Knesset (parliament), Mossad is comprised of several departments, including Lohamah Psichologit (psychological warfare), Metsada (special operations), and Collections (espionage). Recruitment has always been a brutal process, and only the very best candidates make the cut.

Intelligence and adaptability are absolute musts, but they count for little if an applicant is unable to tolerate intense pressure. Potential candidates undergo a series of psychological assessments, background checks and tests. One sees budding recruits taken to Rabin Square in Tel Aviv. Here a randomly selected balcony will be pointed out to them. They then have ten minutes to appear on the balcony holding a glass of water beside the owner. The ability to persuade others to act against their natural instincts is a vital skill in the field.

Only once a candidate has completed a battery of such tests will they be hired and trained for a lonely career on foreign soil, and when it comes to embracing the life of a spy, every agent aspires to become as celebrated as Mossad's most famous son.

A dangerous business

In 1961, Kamel Amin Tabat, a wealthy Arab born in Beirut, touched down in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He set about learning Spanish and joined an Arab social club, ingratiating himself with well-connected businessmen. His fellow members warmed to him, and it wasn't long before Tabat was invited to a party at the Syrian embassy. Here he met General Amin El-Hafez, a military attache and senior figure in the (virulently antisemetic) Syrian Ba'ath Party. El-Hafez was equally impressed by Tabat and asked him to come to his political office for drinks, an invite Tabat readily accepted. El-Hafez confided in Tabat that he was plotting to seize power in Syria. He assumed the conversation would remain private, but the relaxed man before him wasn't a rich investor: he was a spy named Eli Cohen, and with the use of a codebook written in invisible ink and a transistor radio equipped with a hidden transmitter, he was relaying every word El-Hafez spoke to Tel Aviv.

In January 1962, Cohen moved to Damascus, where he attended and hosted a series of lavish parties and soon made the acquaintance of Colonel Salim Khatoum, who invited him on a tour of the defences along the Syria-Israeli border and reaffirmed the Ba'thists' plot to topple the government. Sure enough, the following year El-Hafez was swept into power in the wake of the March 8th Revolution.

Cohen threw a party to celebrate his friend's victory, and it was during this soiree that an engineer told him about the Jordan River diversion project, a ploy to cut off Israel's water supply. Once his guests had departed, Cohen wasted no time in informing his Mossad superiors. The information he provided led to a bombing campaign that decimated the equipment required for the Syrian plan. Just as important were the layouts of the defensive maps Cohen

"A PRESSING NEED WAS A CENTRALISED ORGANISATION TO ENABLE THE SECURITY SERVICES TO COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS" had examined along the border. When the Six-Day War erupted in June 1967, Israel used Cohen's meticulous reports to capture the strategically vital Golan Heights. Sadly, the man behind this triumph would not live to see it.

On 24 January 1965, Syrian security officers arrested Cohen. Long suspicious of an internal leak, El-Hafez finally had his man, and after a quick show trial Cohen was sentenced to hang. His body has never been returned to Israel, but his legacy lives on in a country that will always remember a man who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend it.

Diamond heist

By 1966, America and its allies were desperate to get their hands on a Soviet MiG-21 fighter jet and find out how it could fly at twice the speed of sound. But stealing an aeroplane from under the enemy's nose was surely impossible. Not according to Mossad.

Operation Diamond is without doubt one of the most elaborate missions in the history of spycraft. After identifying Iraq as a target, Mossad agents spent months searching through lists of pilots looking for someone who might be willing to risk everything to steal a fighter jet from a country they'd vowed to serve. Eventually they came across Munir Redfa.

Isolated within the Muslim-majority Iraqi Air Force due to his Christian faith, Redfa's remarkable results in the cockpit had failed to secure him the promotions his ability deserved. Frustrated and with a wife and children to support, he was someone Mossad believed they could turn, so they made him an offer. In return for delivering a MiG-21 into Israeli hands, Redfa and his entire family would be spirited out of Iraq to new lives abroad. Redfa agreed, and soon his relations began to slip over the border with the help of Mossad agents using forged documents. Meanwhile, a meticulous flight path was plotted that incorporated valleys and hills that would help to break up radar signals and prevent Redfa from being detected.

On the morning of 24 August, after convincing the ground crew to fill his jet to the brim against procedure, Redfa calmly took off from a desert airfield. As he raced towards Hatzor Airbase in Israel, two Israeli jets roared skyward, bound for

Eli Cohen was a married father of three when he was executed. Remarkably, El-Hafez had considered him for the post of deputy minister of defence before discovering who his friend really was

NAZI HUNTERS

Operation Finale was as audacious as it was brilliant. The year was 1960, and Adolf Eichmann, one of the major architects of the Holocaust, was living a humble life in a suburb of Buenos Aires. Having previously escaped American custody in the wake of the Third Reich's defeat in 1945, Eichmann assumed he'd evaded the clutches of his enemies. He was wrong. On 11 May, he was stopped shortly after getting off a bus and bundled into a waiting car. The Mossad agents who'd been trailing him (after confirming his identity thanks to images taken by a spy using a special briefcase that snapped Eichmann with the click of a button beneath the handle) took him to a safe house. After nine days he was drugged and flown to Israel, where he was to stand trial for his role in the murder of 6 million Jews. Charged with 15 counts including crimes against humanity, Eichmann's trial lasted from April to August 1961. Adamant that he had simply been following orders, he showed no remorse throughout months of interrogations and immediately appealed the death sentence he was handed upon his guilty verdict. His appeal was refused, and after a final meal washed down with a bottle of wine, he was hanged in a prison in Ramla on 1 June 1962

Standing in a bullet-proof box, Eichmann is informed that his appeal against his death sentence has been rejected

coordinates that would intersect with Redfa's flight path. Forbidden from using radio, they relied on hand signals to link up with the escaped pilot.

After six agonising minutes, Redfa touched down on Israeli soil. Finally, the West could get under the wings of a fully functioning MiG-21. The balance of power in the battle of the Cold War skies had shifted forever.

The Red Prince

Black September, the terror group responsible for the slaughter of 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team during the 1972 Games in Munich, were going to pay. Compiling a list of targets, Mossad established Operation Bayonet and soon set about killing the men they believed were involved. A range of bombings and shootings in Rome, Paris and Cyprus claimed the lives of several of the Palestinian militant group's key figures, and in April 1973 a stunning raid in Beirut culminated in Israeli commandos (some disguised in long wigs) executing three prominent members of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. Yet one man continued to elude Mossad: the Red Prince.

Ali Hassan Salameh lived a flamboyant lifestyle in Beirut. A regular sight on the city's party scene, he was married to a former Miss Universe and enjoyed wrestling and horse riding. One morning while he was exercising in the gym at the Beirut International Hotel he struck up a conversation with a man who needed a little guidance on stomach crunches. The pair soon became friends, and Salameh asked the man to come to dinner at his house. He had no idea that he was inviting a mortal enemy to sit at his table.

Agent D had spent months following Salameh. Under strict instructions to only observe his target and never interact, D had little choice but to break the rules when Salameh introduced himself; he couldn't break his cover. However, he never lost sight of his mission.

While D continued to socialise with Salameh, Mossad planted an agent in an apartment across the street from the Red Prince's home. Posing as an artist, Erika Chambers would sit with her easel and watch Salameh come and go, and it didn't take long for her to notice a pattern. Salameh always left home at the same time, and his car always headed down the same road, at the end of which he had to take a right turn.

A plan was hatched to park a car on this very corner and wire it with 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of explosives. On the morning of 22 January 1979, Salameh climbed into a car with four bodyguards. Earlier that day they'd received a letter warning Salameh that he should change his daily routine, but the guards had not wanted to disturb their boss, only handing the note to him once he was inside the car. He was reading it when Chambers pressed a detonator. The explosion killed Salameh's guards and sent a piece of shrapnel into his eye, a wound he would succumb to later. Sadly, four innocent bystanders also perished. Seven years after Munich, Mossad had ended the Red Prince's reign.

Modern warfare

Today Mossad remains a key part of Israel's national defence, as highlighted by some ingenious recent missions. On 17 September 2024, thousands of pagers belonging to Hezbollah fighters spontaneously exploded across Lebanon, killing and injuring scores of people and spreading panic through the ranks of a terror group Israel once again found itself fighting in the wake of Hamas' devastating attack on 7 October 2023. The next day, walkie-talkies similarly fitted with hidden explosives that Hezbollah had unwittingly purchased from a company set up by Mossad burst into flames, claiming several lives and maiming hundreds.

Another major success for Mossad came on 13 June 2025 with Operation Rising Lion, the codename for an Israeli attack on Iran. In order to help the Israeli Air Force to quickly secure aerial supremacy, agents on the ground had constructed a base in Tehran from which hundreds of drones were unleashed to attack Iranian air-defence systems. Within a matter of days Israeli jets were targeting commanders and strategic positions at will.

Mossad never comes forward to claim responsibility for any of its missions, preferring to strike and then slip back into the shadows, but Israel's enemies know they are always watching. No attack will ever go unpunished. They can pray. They can run. But they can't hide. In the end, when they least expect it, Mossad will come.

■ **Mossad audaciously stole a Russian-made jet from Iraq in 1966**

Images, Alamy, Getty

CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS

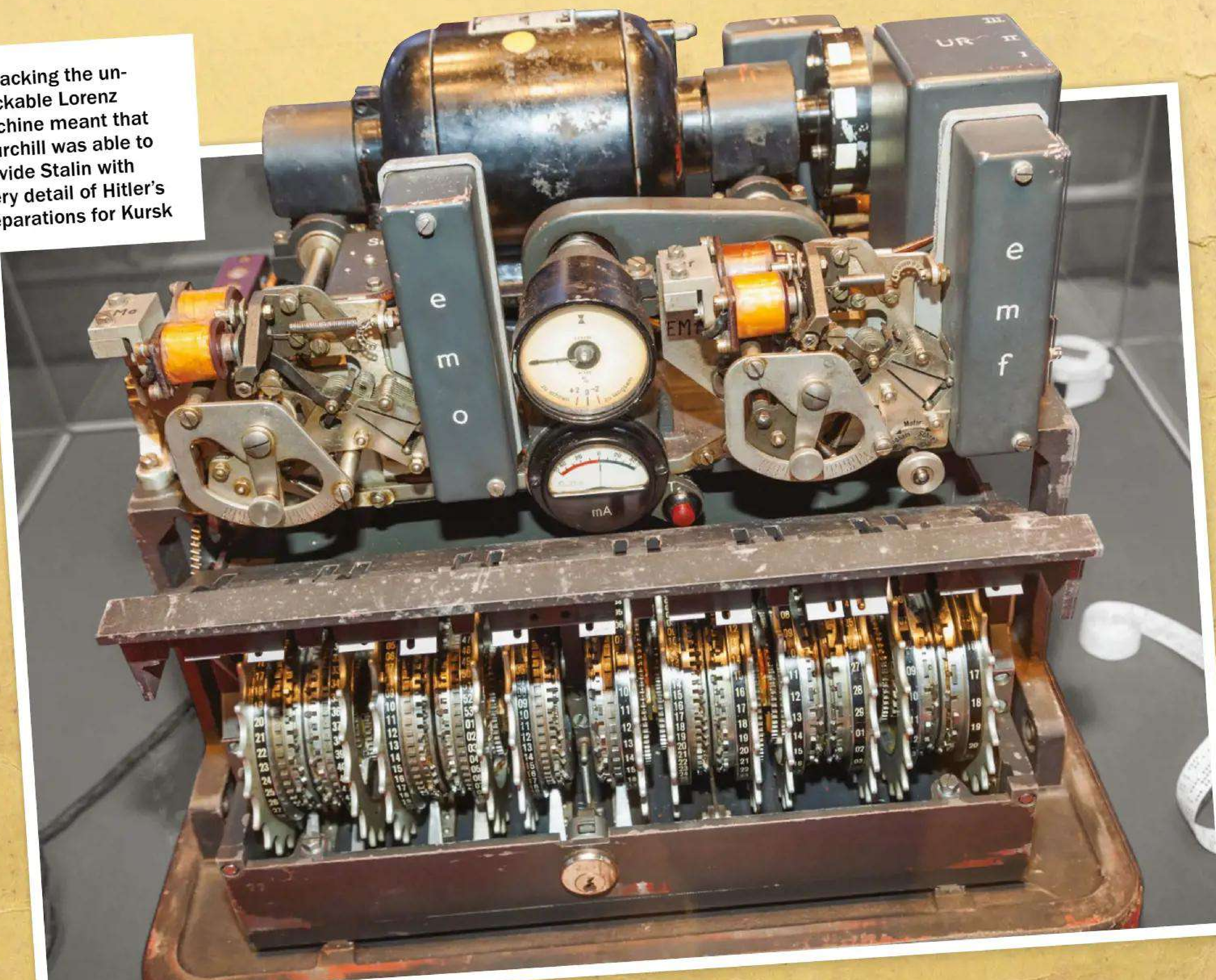
Discover top-secret taskforces and teams and some of the special missions they carried out to win wars and protect nations

Image: Alamy

SPIES OF OPERATION CITADEL

In the spring of 1943 during WW2, spy networks across Europe put Stalin firmly on the road to victory at the Battle of Kursk

WORDS **ANTHONY TUCKER-JONES**



Cracking the un-crackable Lorenz machine meant that Churchill was able to provide Stalin with every detail of Hitler's preparations for Kursk

In early 1943 Churchill supplied Stalin with weapons and vital intelligence. The Soviet dictator was not grateful and suspected Churchill of skulduggery

By 1943 the prognosis for the rejuvenated Red Army was good. This was despite friction between Churchill and Roosevelt on the one hand, and Stalin on the other over intelligence-sharing and the delivery of weapon supplies. The British Joint Intelligence Committee now doubted Hitler's chances of victory, assessing that "the prospect of a German defeat of Russia has receded to vanishing point". It also held the view that Hitler had passed the point where he could hope to reach a peace settlement with Stalin. Churchill was in agreement and wrote, "The Russians, both on land and in the air, had now the upper hand, and the Germans can have had few hopes of ultimate victory."

Thanks to the decoders at Britain's top-secret Bletchley Park, Churchill was forewarned that a battle was looming at Kursk that summer. Not only had Bletchley cracked Enigma, used by the German armed forces, but also the Lorenz system used by German High Command. He resolved to inform Stalin but was at pains to conceal the true source of this information. Captain Jerry Roberts, working at Bletchley, explained, "We were able to warn them what army groups were going to be used. And most important, what tank units were going to be used… We had to wrap it all up and say it was from spies, that we had wonderful teams of spies, and other sources of information."

It has been speculated that Bletchley intelligence was also deliberately passed through Rudolf Roessler and his 'Lucy' spy network in Switzerland, but there is no evidence to support this. Churchill's warning was simply sent via diplomatic channels on 30 April 1943 to Moscow. Stalin did not altogether trust Churchill and it is doubtful he took much heed of Britain's efforts. After all, these simply confirmed what he already knew. Although Soviet military intelligence was aware of Bletchley Park, which they called 'Krurort', they were unaware of the exact nature or indeed the scale of the secret work being conducted there.

Stalin was convinced that Churchill's help came with an agenda. In 1941 he had largely ignored Churchill's warnings about Hitler's impending invasion. His main concern was that if the Germans had broken the Soviet cypher system then the British had as well. However, Stalin had a spy right in the heart of Bletchley – Captain John Cairncross, known as 'Liszt,' who was passing large quantities of decrypts to the Soviet Embassy in London. He worked at Bletchley from 1942 until the summer of 1943, when he transferred to MI6.

Cairncross could not believe just how lax security was at Bletchley. Its boffins were daily intercepting and decrypting German, Italian and Japanese coded signals, yet the place leaked like a sieve. In contrast, bizarrely, when it came to petty pilfering of the cafeteria crockery and the length of tea breaks, the authorities were positively draconian.

Stalin did not really need Churchill's official or Caincross's unofficial help, as his own military intelligence was already well aware of Hitler's build-up around the Kursk salient. Ironically, the intelligence provided by Cairncross helped convince Stalin that the 'Lucy' spy ring was part of a deliberate German deception operation because some of their information matched. It seems that Stalin could not accept or appreciate that Bletchley Park and his Swiss spies were actually drawing on the same sources within the German High Command.

Cairncross had decided that Churchill's government was not doing enough to help Stalin, so he had taken matters into his own hands. He was of the opinion that Bletchley ought to share its intelligence with all its allies, not just the Americans. A Scottish Marxist, Captain Cairncross, known as 'The Fiery Cross' at Trinity College, had been recruited by Soviet intelligence in the late 1930s. He preferred to believe that the Soviet Union was a workers' utopia rather than a brutal totalitarian state. His early career in the

"STALIN HAD A SPY RIGHT IN THE HEART OF BLETCHLEY – JOHN CAIRNCROSS… WHO WAS PASSING DECRYPTS TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY"

Foreign Office and then the Treasury had made him a valuable source of information.

At Bletchley Cairncross worked in Hut 3 and he regularly scooped the processed decrypts from the floor. Adding them to his own translations, he then hid them in his trousers. Curiously, Cairncross was never patted down by Bletchley's guards, nor did he seem particularly surprised that he always managed to find useful information on the floor, which would be of help to his foreign friends. Once at the local railway station he put the decrypts in a bag and travelled to London to meet 'Henry', his Soviet handler, whose real name was Anatoli Gorsky.

In particular he gained valuable information that showed Hitler was planning to pinch off the Kursk salient. What he did not know was that Leo Long, a military intelligence officer working in the War Office, was also leaking Bletchley intelligence on Kursk. He was doing so via Soviet mole Anthony Blunt, who worked for MI5. Despite initial fears that it might be part of a deliberate British deception plan, Soviet military intelligence deemed it to be 'very valuable'.

The Swiss network

Operating from Geneva, Sándor Radó, codename 'Dora', and Englishman Allan Foote developed a contact in Lucerne known as 'Lucy' via German émigré Christian Schneider. 'Lucy' was a German exile by the name of Rudolf Roessler, who was a committed anti-Nazi connected with some extremely well-placed sympathisers within the German High Command and military intelligence.

By profession Roessler was a journalist and publisher who in the early 1930s had incurred the displeasure of the Nazis. Ever since, he had lived in fear of being handed over to Hitler's henchmen. By way of insurance he was also working for Swiss intelligence. Radó, Foote and Schneider, meanwhile, were spies working for Soviet military intelligence. Radó and his network knew secrecy was everything. For security purposes Schneider, codename 'Taylor', was Roessler's only point of contact. Although Switzerland was neutral, should the authorities discover them operating on Swiss soil they would arrest everyone.

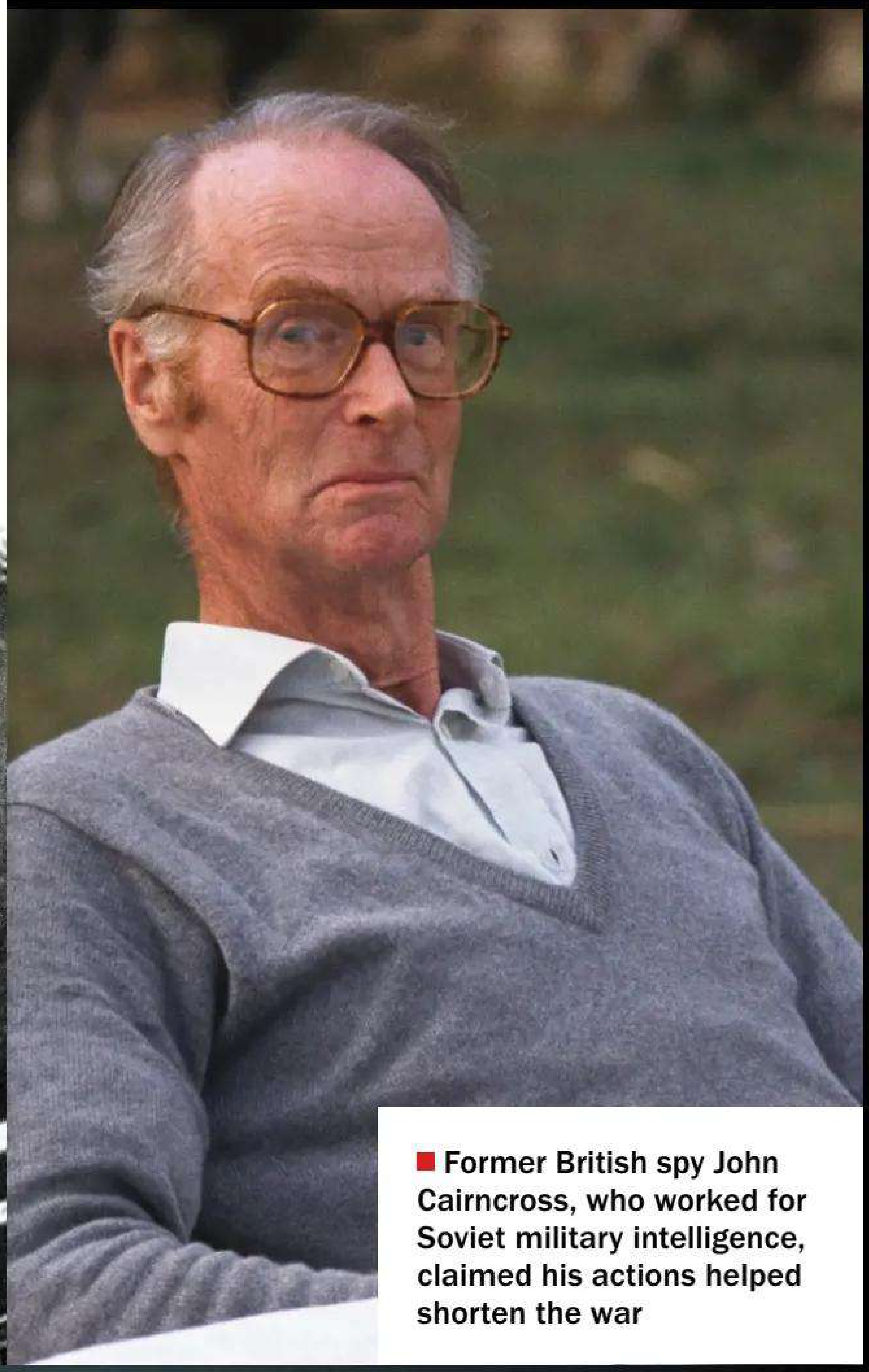
Every time General Zeitzler, chief of the Army General Staff, asked for situation reports from the German armies around the Kursk salient it went through General Erich Fellgiebel. He was head of communications for both the armed forces and Army High Command. Along with his deputy, Lieutenant General Fritz Thiele, he was an ardent anti-Nazi. To some they were patriots trying to undermine Hitler, to others they were

Admiral William H. Standley, US Ambassador to Moscow, caused an almighty row with Stalin on the eve of Kursk

By 1943 Bletchley Park's codebreakers had not only cracked Enigma, employed by the German armed forces, but also the German High Command's Lorenz codes

Rudolf Roessler, above, operating in Switzerland, was fed intelligence by anti-Nazi sympathisers in the German High Command

General Erich Fellgiebel passed intelligence to agents 'Lucy' and 'Dora' in Switzerland



Former British spy John Cairncross, who worked for Soviet military intelligence, claimed his actions helped shorten the war

dangerous traitors intent on Germany's downfall. Every step Zeitzler took to formulate Operation Citadel was relayed by Fellgiebel to 'Lucy' in Lucerne and on to Moscow.

The German General Staff and the Abwehr intelligence organisation had come to the conclusion that someone high up was aiding Stalin. Colonel Reinhard Gehlen, who was in charge of intelligence-gathering on the Eastern Front, noted, "Admiral Canaris [head of Abwehr] came to my headquarters at Anderburg one day and told me in the course of a lengthy conversation whom he suspected to be the traitor, though I believe that he knew more than he was prepared to tell me." Both were looking in completely the wrong direction. They convinced themselves, wrongly, that the traitor was Hitler's private secretary, Martin Bormann.

Having been contacted by Schneider, Radó had instructed Foote to radio Moscow to say, "Major German offensive at Kursk imminent." Schneider reassured him that more intelligence would be forthcoming regarding German troop deployments and timetables. If Hitler thought he was going to take the initiative he had another thing coming. If he tried anything at Kursk he would reap a bitter harvest.

The materiel link

During the beginning of 1943, under the cover of perpetual Arctic darkness, Churchill had pushed two secretive supply convoys through to Russia, but with the return of the daylight he reluctantly postponed the March convoy. Then, under advice from the Royal Navy, he agreed that supplies by this route would stop until the return of darkness in the autumn. "This decision was taken with deep regret," Churchill wrote later, "because of the tremendous battles on the Russian front which distinguished the campaign of 1943." Stalin was livid, as this would delay the delivery of 660 fighter aircraft. Only much later did Nikita Khrushchev acknowledge, "The English helped us tenaciously and at great peril to themselves. They shipped cargo to Murmansk and suffered huge losses. German submarines lurked all along the way." Stalin cared little that the Americans and British were fighting a desperate convoy war in the Atlantic in order to supply their forces in North Africa and as part of the necessary build-up for the second front.

Remarkably, in response to the American convoys bound for North Africa, Britain and the Soviet Union, the Abwehr established a sizeable spy network in Brazil. Washington used the country as a hub for air ferrying services and as a central location on the convoy routes. Brazil had a population of almost 1 million Germans, making it a fertile ground for espionage. Although this network suffered a collapse in 1942, the intelligence collected was clearly quite important, as the Abwehr attempted to set up two more groups in 1943.

Despite Hitler's best efforts, a lot of equipment was still reaching the Soviet Union. The Luftwaffe issued a secret intelligence report on 4 April 1943, assessing that around 1.2 million tons of supplies had come through the Arctic route compared to just half a million via the Persian Gulf and the Far East. It reported, "Besides raw materials, victuals and mineral oil, it included 1,880 aircraft, 2,350 tanks, 8,300 lorries, 6,400 other vehicles and 2,250 guns." These resources inevitably had an impact on the fighting on the Eastern Front.

Although the Red Army viewed its Lend-Lease vehicles as a blessing and a curse in equal measure, there was no getting away from them. By 1943 20 per cent of Stalin's tank brigades had Lend-Lease vehicles, while around ten per cent were completely equipped with them. Of greatest value to the Red Army were the trucks and lorries, which greatly aided the Red Army's mobility. War correspondent Alexander Werth wrote, "From my personal observation I can say that, from 1943 on, the Red Army unquestionably appreciated the help from the West – whether in the form of Airacobras, Kittyhawks, Dodges, jeeps, spam, army boots, or medicines. The motor vehicles were particularly admired and valued."

Diplomatic rumblings

Aside from Churchill and Roosevelt, Stalin was particularly angry with US Ambassador Admiral William H. Standley. He, along with the American correspondents in Moscow, made it known that they felt the Soviet press and indeed the Soviet government was not showing enough gratitude for American and British help. Stalin was moved to write to Henry Cassidy of the Associated Press, saying rather tartly, "As compared with the aid which the Soviet Union is giving the Allies by drawing upon itself the main forces of the

"EVERY STEP ZEITZLER TOOK TO FORMULATE OPERATION CITADEL WAS RELAYED BY FELLGIEBEL TO 'LUCY' IN LUCERNE AND ON TO MOSCOW"

German Fascist armies, the aid of the Allies to the Soviet Union has so far been little effective." When this letter was published an affronted Standley flew to Washington to clarify exactly what had been sent and how much of it had been successfully delivered.

On his return to Moscow in January 1943 he made it his mission to get the Soviets to show some appreciation. None was forthcoming – not even from Foreign Minister Molotov. Two months later at a press conference Standley dropped a diplomatic bombshell, saying that the Russian people had no idea of the help they were getting, which would not encourage Congress to renew aid if it was not appreciated.

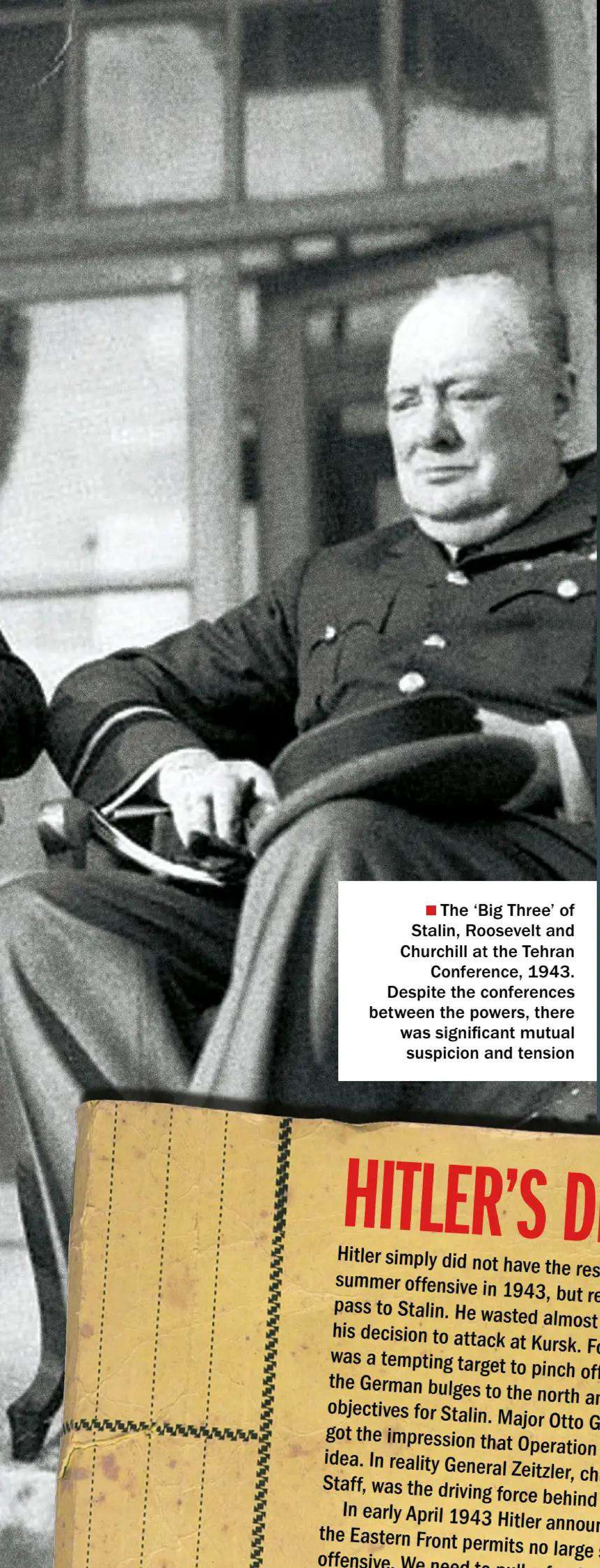
Soviet censors were enraged but were authorised by Stalin to issue Standley's statement on 9 March 1943. Stalin appreciated that a public relations war was going on and that for the sake of the bigger picture he needed to give ground. The chief censor, Kozhemiako, was furious, as his mother had died of starvation in Leningrad. One of his colleagues cursed, "We've lost millions of people, and they want us to crawl on our knees because they send us spam. And has the 'warmhearted' Congress ever done anything that wasn't in its interests? Don't tell me that Lend-Lease is charity." No one, though, was going to defy Stalin and the following day the Soviet press began to report on the generous aid sent by their allies.

Despite the disparaging remarks about spam, like everything else it played its role in Stalin's war effort. "There were many jokes going around in the army, some of them off-colour, about American spam," recalled Khrushchev. "It tasted good nonetheless. Without spam we wouldn't have been able to feed our army. We had lost our most fertile lands – the Ukraine and the northern Caucasus." What he did not mention was that some of the canned pork was also sent to feed Gulag inmates.

It was very evident to Alexander Werth from his contacts that the USA's gifts were going to have an impact on the impending fighting at Kursk. He wrote, "On 11 June I recorded a conversation with a Russian correspondent who had just been to Kursk. He said the Russian equipment there was truly stupendous; he had never seen anything like it. What was also going to make a big difference this summer was the enormous number of American trucks; these were going to increase Russian mobility to a fantastic degree. The Russian soldiers were finding them excellent." It is also possible that intelligence on

"STALIN, PUBLICLY AT LEAST, DESPISED SPIES AND DISPARAGED THEIR INFORMATION. HE SAW THEIR ACTIONS AS PURELY POLITICALLY MOTIVATED"

A four-rotor German Enigma machine. The Enigma was considered unbreakable, but Allied intelligence was able to crack its code and intercept messages



The 'Big Three' of Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill at the Tehran Conference, 1943. Despite the conferences between the powers, there was significant mutual suspicion and tension

Hitler's panzers was passed to Stalin by John Cairncross. His decrypts allegedly encouraged the Soviets to develop more powerful shells in response to German armament reports. It is likely that Bletchley was well aware of Hitler's constant demands for updates on his brand new Panther tank and Ferdinand tank destroyer. Certainly Churchill was alerted to what he called "the new 'Tiger' tanks". In light of the Tiger I appearing in the summer of 1942, it was hardly new by the summer of 1943 so he must have been referring to the Ferdinand.

Stalin was aware of the problems Hitler was suffering with Panther production thanks to the 'Lucy' spy ring and the wealth of classified intelligence it was providing. On 15 April 1943 Radó transmitted to Moscow Hitler's complete order of battle for Citadel. Just two days later he helpfully listed the creation of new panzer and infantry units. Then on 28 June Radó provided a summary of Panther manufacture, meaning Stalin knew that Hitler had just three or four battalions. Stalin, publicly at least, despised spies and disparaged their information. He saw their actions as purely politically motivated or based on financial gain: they could not be trusted. Nonetheless, what 'Dora' was saying was corroborated by intelligence from Soviet partisans behind German lines and by Red Air Force reconnaissance flights.

Even in Germany the preparation of these new weapons for Operation Citadel seemed to be common knowledge. Jewish academic Victor Klemperer, living in the city of Dresden, jotted down in his diary in early July, "We are now producing whole series of 'Tiger' tanks; and all of it, arms and men, is going east on a massive scale, a train every fifteen minutes! Our offensive is sure to start in the next few weeks." Armed with such information, Stalin already had a low-tech solution to Hitler's panzers. "Because the Germans had much better quality equipment and super-tanks like the Tiger," said Captain Jerry Roberts, "the Russians needed greater quantities of armoured vehicles in order to compete."

Also on 28 June, courtesy of the 'Lucy' network, Stalin received the Luftwaffe's order of battle for Citadel. This meant the Red Air Force knew exactly what it was up against. John Cairncross claimed he played a role in Stalin's surprise pre-emptive air strike at Kursk. He said that the German language intelligence "I supplied was genuine, giving full details of German units and locations, thus enabling the Russians to pinpoint their targets and take the enemy by surprise". In the event, though, things did not go to plan in the air.

Churchill and Roosevelt, who had enough on their hands planning the Mediterranean campaign and the war in the Far East and Pacific, found Stalin's ingratitude perplexing. On 10 June Stalin wrote to Roosevelt with an air of petulance, saying, "You and Churchill have decided to postpone the Anglo-American invasion of Western Europe till the spring of 1944. Now again we've got to go on fighting almost single handed." He then tried bullying Churchill by warning, "The preservation of our confidence in the Allies is being subjected

HITLER'S DILEMMA

Hitler simply did not have the resources to conduct a major summer offensive in 1943, but refused to let the initiative pass to Stalin. He wasted almost two months dithering over his decision to attack at Kursk. For Hitler the Russian salient was a tempting target to pinch off, yet at the same time the German bulges to the north and south were tempting objectives for Stalin. Major Otto Günsche, Hitler's adjutant, got the impression that Operation Citadel was the führer's idea. In reality General Zeitzler, chief of the Army General Staff, was the driving force behind it.

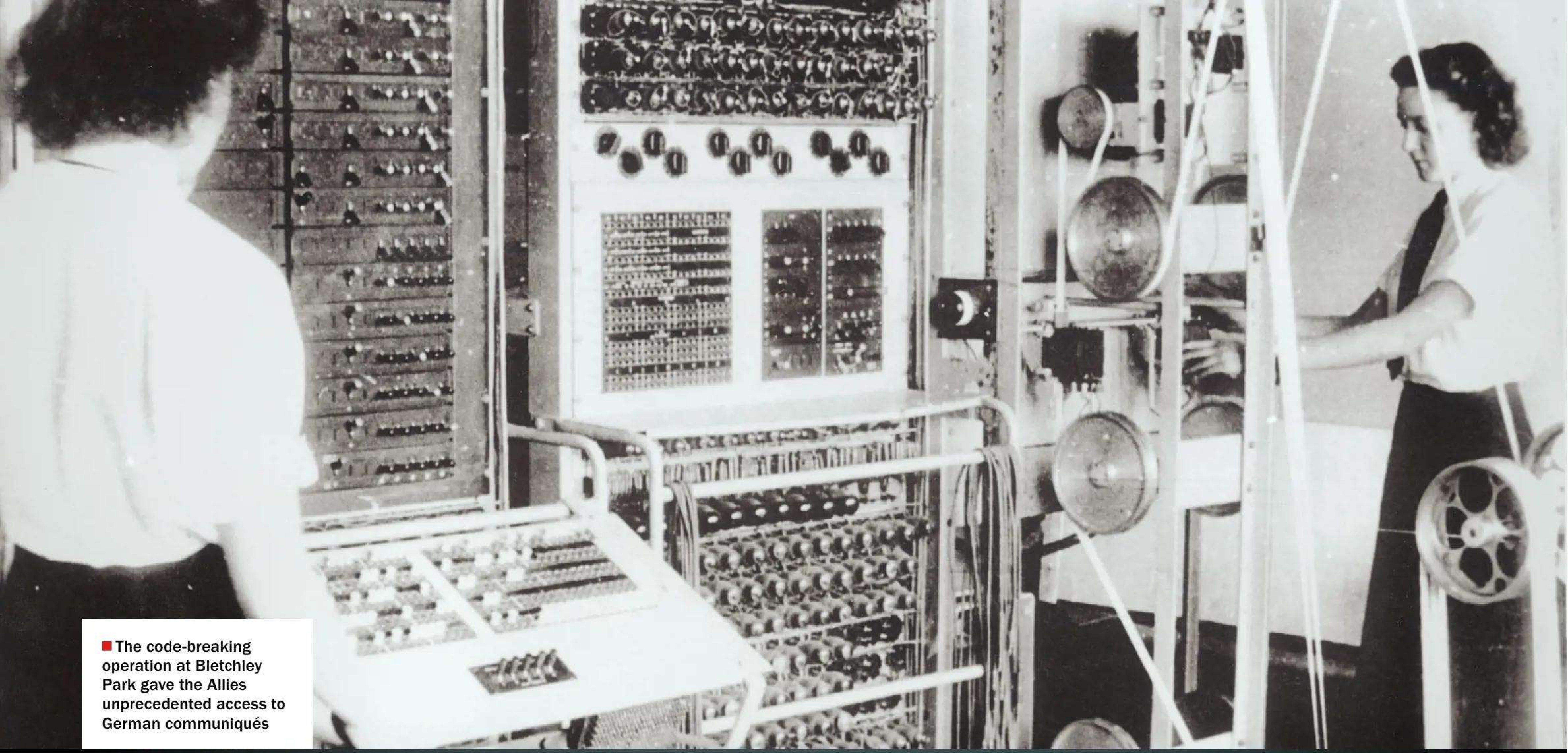
In early April 1943 Hitler announced, "The situation on the Eastern Front permits no large scale multi-directional offensive. We need to pull a few important pieces out of the Russian Front in order to gain the initiative again." Bending over his map, he declared, "Here, at Kursk, we have the opportunity of giving the Russians a blow and threatening Moscow again." Using a green pencil he drew two arrows, one from Orel and the other from Belgorod, meeting behind Kursk.

Publicly, Operation Citadel was born. At a meeting the following month Field Marshal Keitel, chief of High Command of the Armed Forces, argued, "We must attack for political reasons." General Heinz Guderian retorted, "It's a matter of profound indifference to the world whether we hold Kursk or not. I repeat my question: why do we want to attack in the East at all this year?" However, Hitler and Keitel were well aware that their Axis allies, Italy, Hungary and Romania, were wavering in their support.

Hitler's unexpectedly honest reply did not engender any great confidence. Looking at Guderian, he said, "You're quite right. Whenever I think of this attack my stomach turns over." There was a moment's stunned silence. "In that case your reaction to the problem is the correct one," replied Guderian. Then, to emphasise his position he cautioned the führer, "Leave it alone!"

Zeitzler was thoroughly fed up of waiting, and there seemed unending excuses for delaying Citadel – not least the Panther tank. Hitler was pressed to get a commitment that production would be ready by 10 June at the latest. "Otherwise," said Zeitzler, "let us begin the attack without them, or else use them in a counterattack". In the event Hitler slipped Citadel to 5 July 1943, by which time he was too late. Stalin had numerical superiority and his troops were extremely well dug-in. Hitler's men were fought to a bloody standstill then counterattacked.

Hitler, alongside Eva Braun, appears exhausted from the strains of leadership



The code-breaking operation at Bletchley Park gave the Allies unprecedented access to German communiqués

to severe stress." This was the final straw for Churchill, who on 27 June 1943 pointed out that England had fought alone until June 1941. Then, bizarrely, and contrary to Bletchley intelligence, he said, "You may not even be heavily attacked by the Germans this summer. This would vindicate decisively what you once called the 'military correctness' of our Mediterranean strategy." Quite what Stalin made of this bullish message is anyone's guess.

In Switzerland the 'Lucy' spy ring's days were numbered. By June 1943 Foote was aware that he was being watched by the local police. Three months earlier the Abwehr had placed Radó and most of his co-conspirators under surveillance. He had not helped matters by having an affair with one of his female wireless operators, who was half his age. The women concerned was also seeing an Abwehr agent. Foote had wanted to reduce the rate of his transmissions but Moscow refused. Germany was now putting diplomatic pressure on the Swiss to arrest them, and it was becoming increasingly difficult for the authorities to turn a blind eye. In terms of Kursk, though, their work was more than done.

An intelligence victory?

Just how much value did Stalin gain from his spies in Britain and Switzerland? While their espionage work was exciting and dangerous, the answer is very little. By the time decrypted intelligence reached Moscow it was often days if not weeks out of date. John Cairncross, Leo Long and Anthony Blunt liked to think they were instrumental in changing the course of the war. This was a deluded view. Sándor Radó and Rudolf Roessler were fed information direct from the German High Command, but whether this was better than the intelligence gained from the Lorenz decrypts at Bletchley is unknown. Stalin had numerous sources of intelligence and his spies were just one small part of the Soviets' vast information-gathering operation.

Churchill's understandable reluctance to reveal the source of his intelligence inevitably did little to enhance its credibility in the eyes of the Kremlin. Furthermore, by the time intercepts had been decrypted, units were often long gone, having been redeployed elsewhere. Stalin got much better intelligence from his partisans behind enemy lines monitoring German-controlled airfields, railways and roads. Likewise, the Red Army ran its own radio intercept operations and the Red Air Force conducted regular photographic reconnaissance flights.

"STALIN HAD NUMEROUS SOURCES OF INTELLIGENCE AND HIS SPIES WERE JUST ONE SMALL PART OF THE SOVIETS' VAST INFORMATION-GATHERING OPERATION"

Nonetheless, the role of Enigma and Lorenz-derived intelligence passed to Stalin officially or unofficially should not be completely dismissed. If Moscow was never ready to acknowledge the part played by Lend-Lease equipment, then it was certainly never going to accept it won the war because of British and American-supplied intelligence and information.

Codebreaker Captain Jerry Reynolds was in little doubt that information supplied by Bletchley Park played a vital part in shortening the war and hastening Hitler's final defeat. He pointed out that Churchill "gave the Russians full details of the plans three months before the battle took place and allowed them to deploy the maximum number of tanks and win the Battle of Kursk."

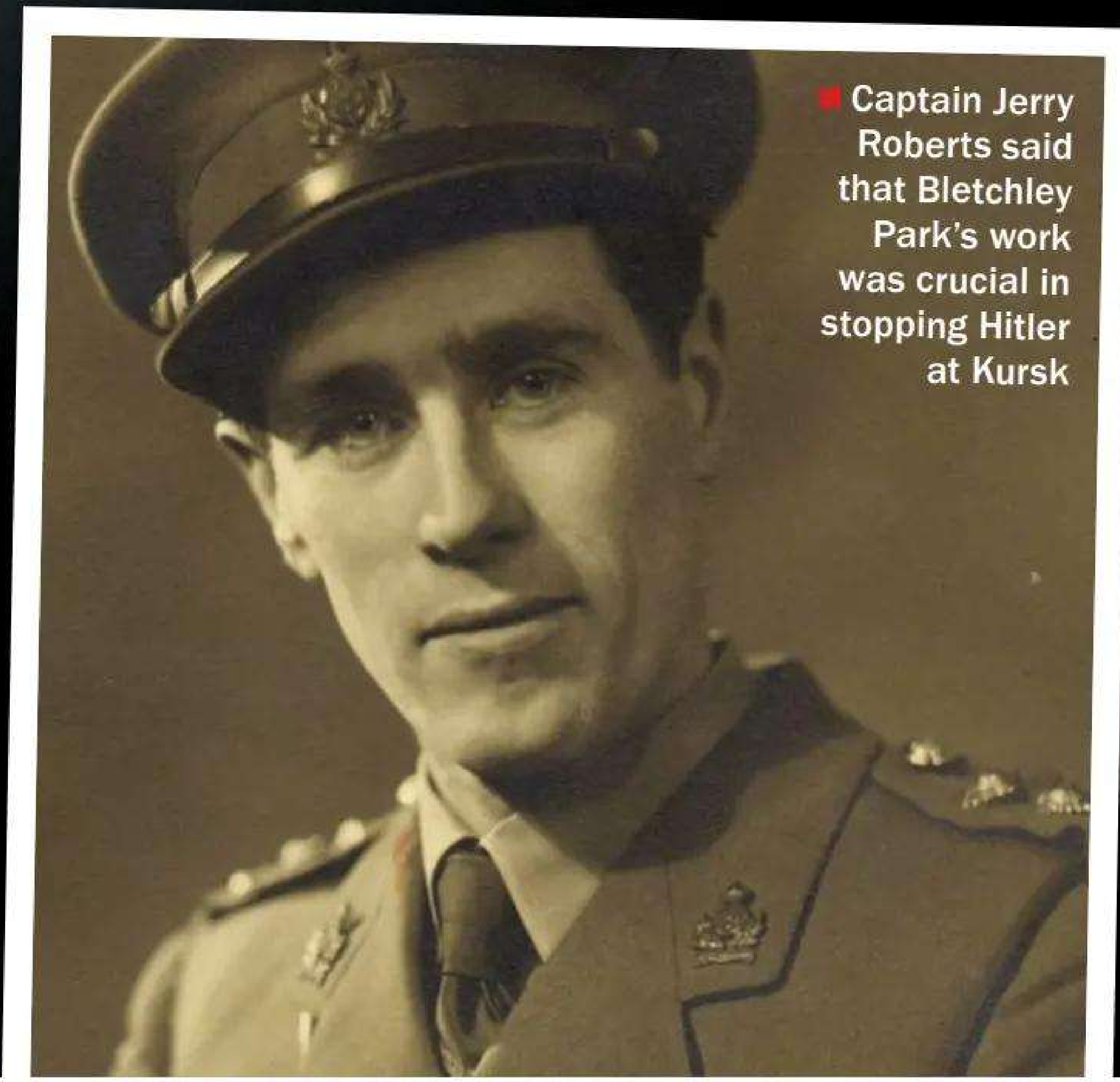
Until his dying day Reynolds championed the unsung heroes of Bletchley: "Most people in Britain are unaware of the Kursk story and its enormous significance, and of the major contribution made by the Lorenz decrypts to its successful outcome. I wonder whether the Russian authorities ever realised the importance of the help that Britain had given."

It is very notable that Russian generals Khrushchev and Zhukov said that they were tipped off that Citadel was about to commence against both the Central and Voronezh Fronts by prisoners captured just hours before. It is highly improbable that lowly privates from the German army and the Waffen-SS would be privy to such information. Even if they were, it seems a convenient coincidence that the two fronts received the same warning at about the same time from the same type of source.

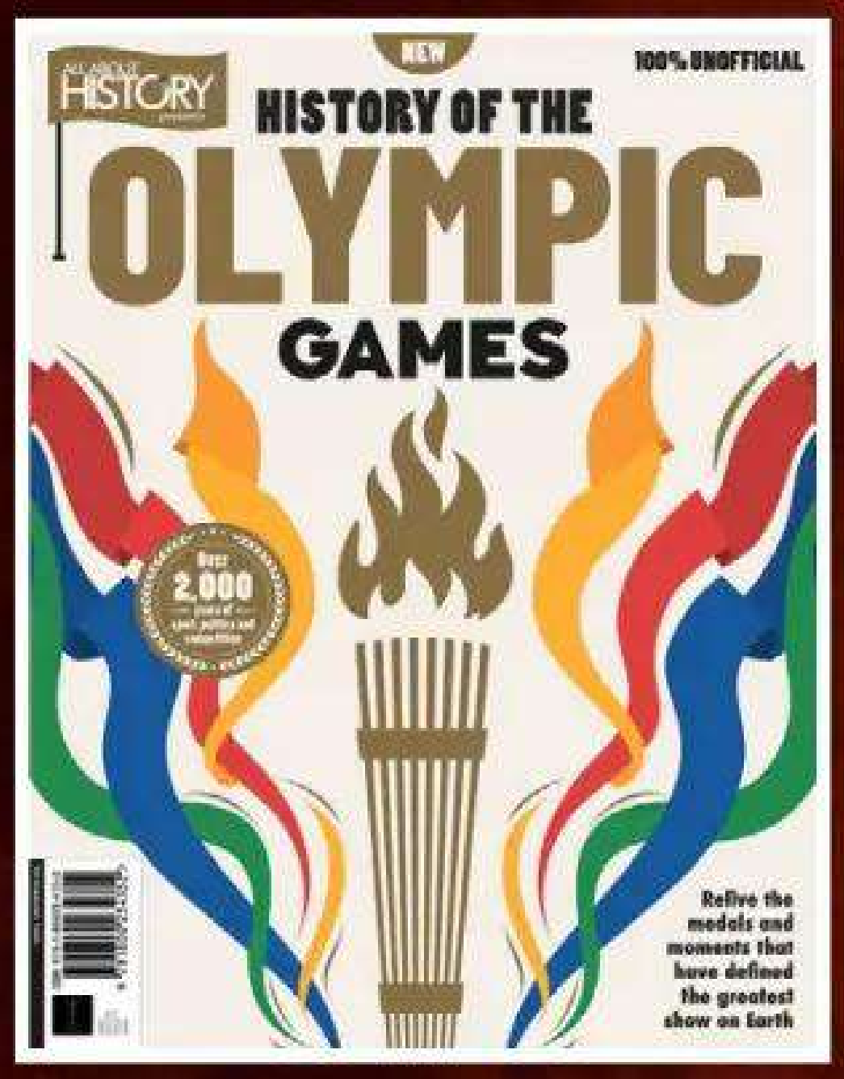
It may be that Khrushchev and Zhukov wanted a plausible reason for opening fire before Hitler attacked. Could it be that Stalin and his commanders already knew the exact day and hour that Operation Citadel was due to commence? This is more than likely. Was this knowledge derived from Bletchley's intelligence? It is impossible to tell. Besides, Stalin would never have acknowledged such timely assistance.

Ultimately the battle had been brewing for months, and for the Red Army it was just a case of sitting tight until such time as Hitler chose to attack. Certainly a man with secret documents stuffed down his trousers was not really going to have much bearing on such decisive events.

Images source: Getty Images, Alamy



Captain Jerry Roberts said that Bletchley Park's work was crucial in stopping Hitler at Kursk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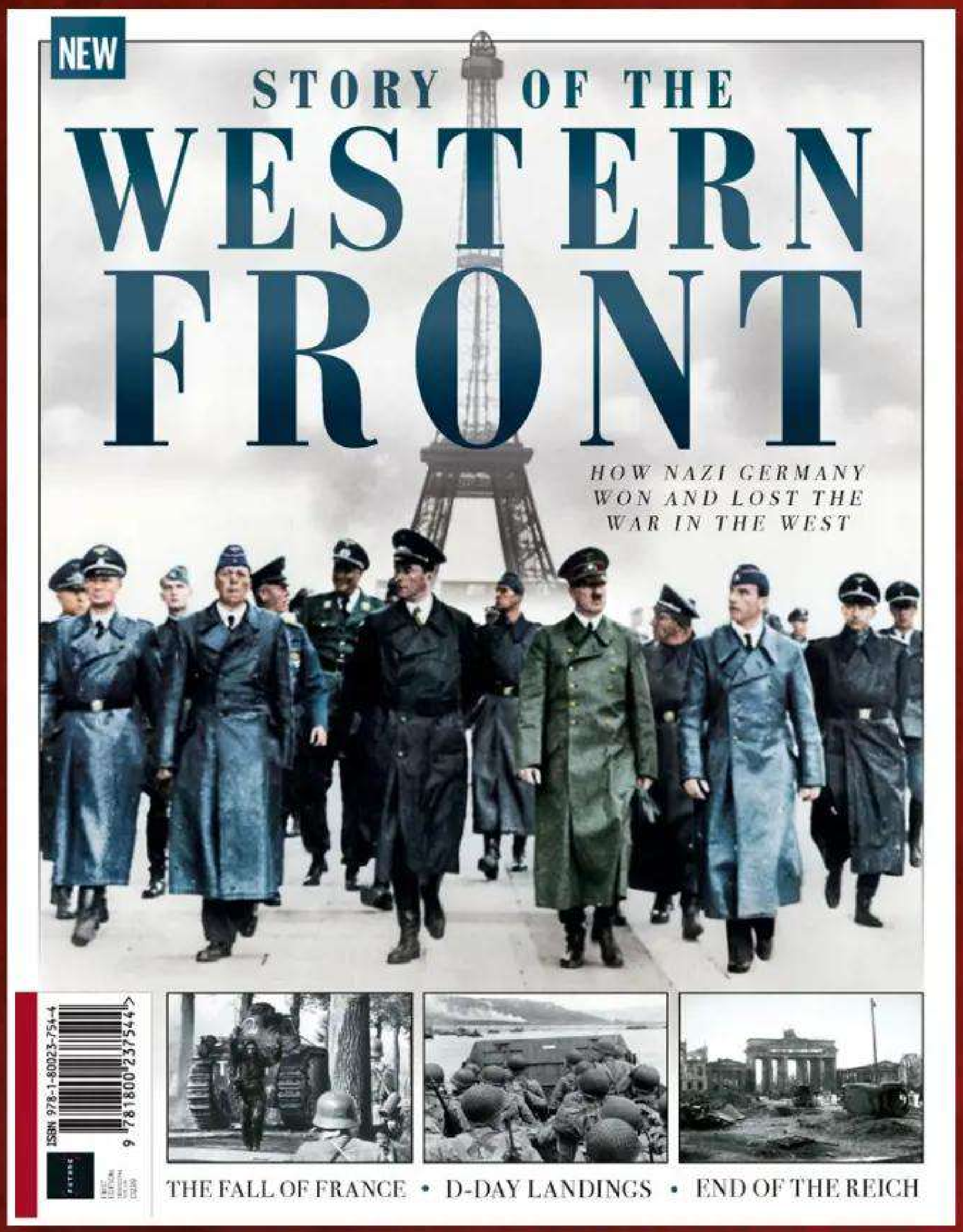
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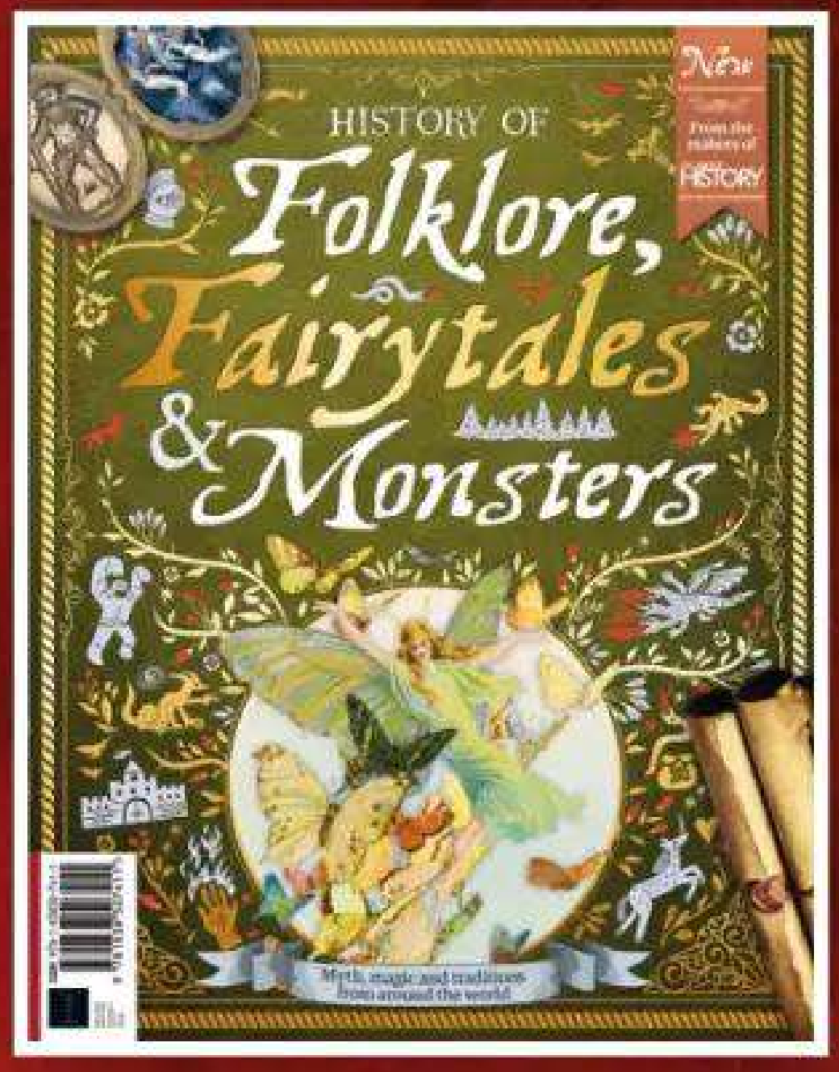
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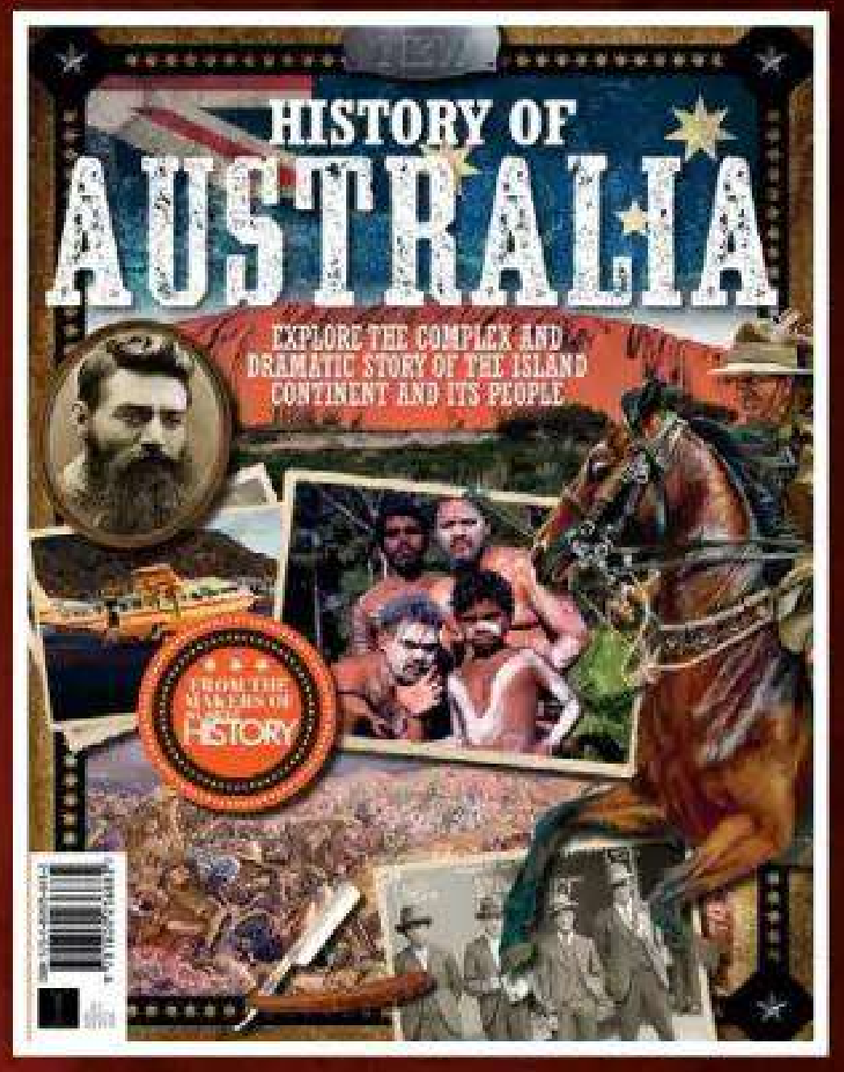
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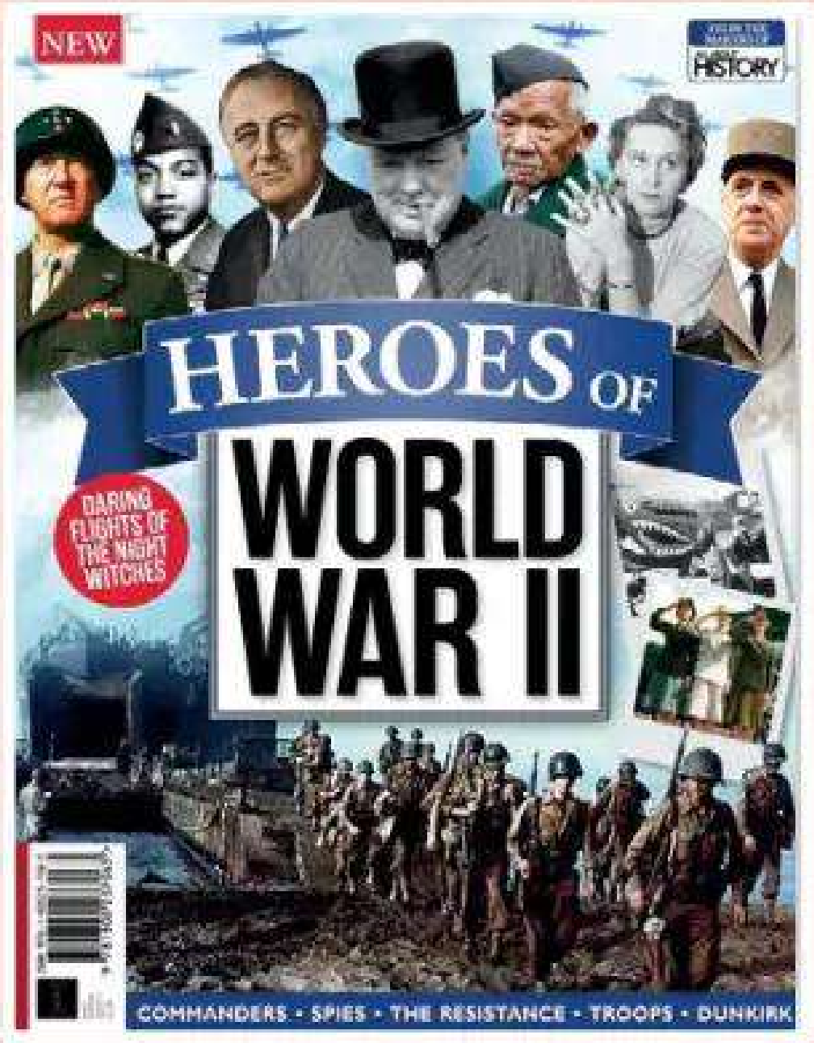
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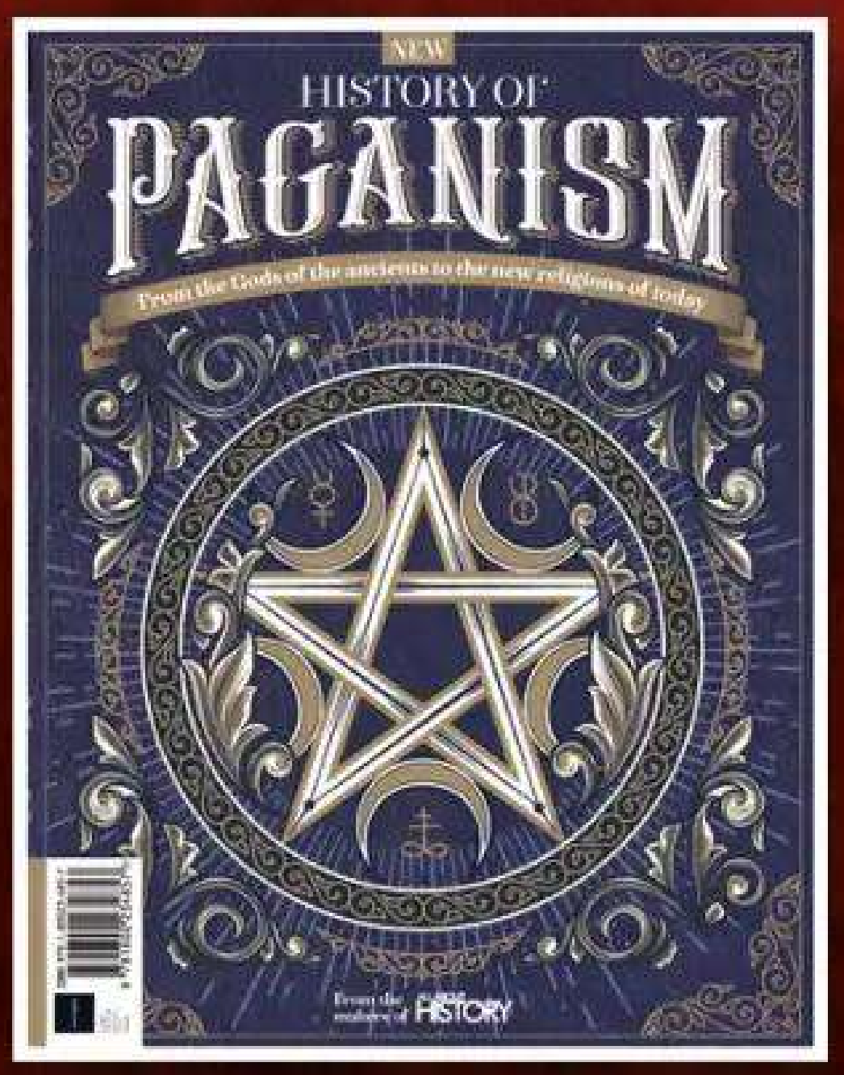
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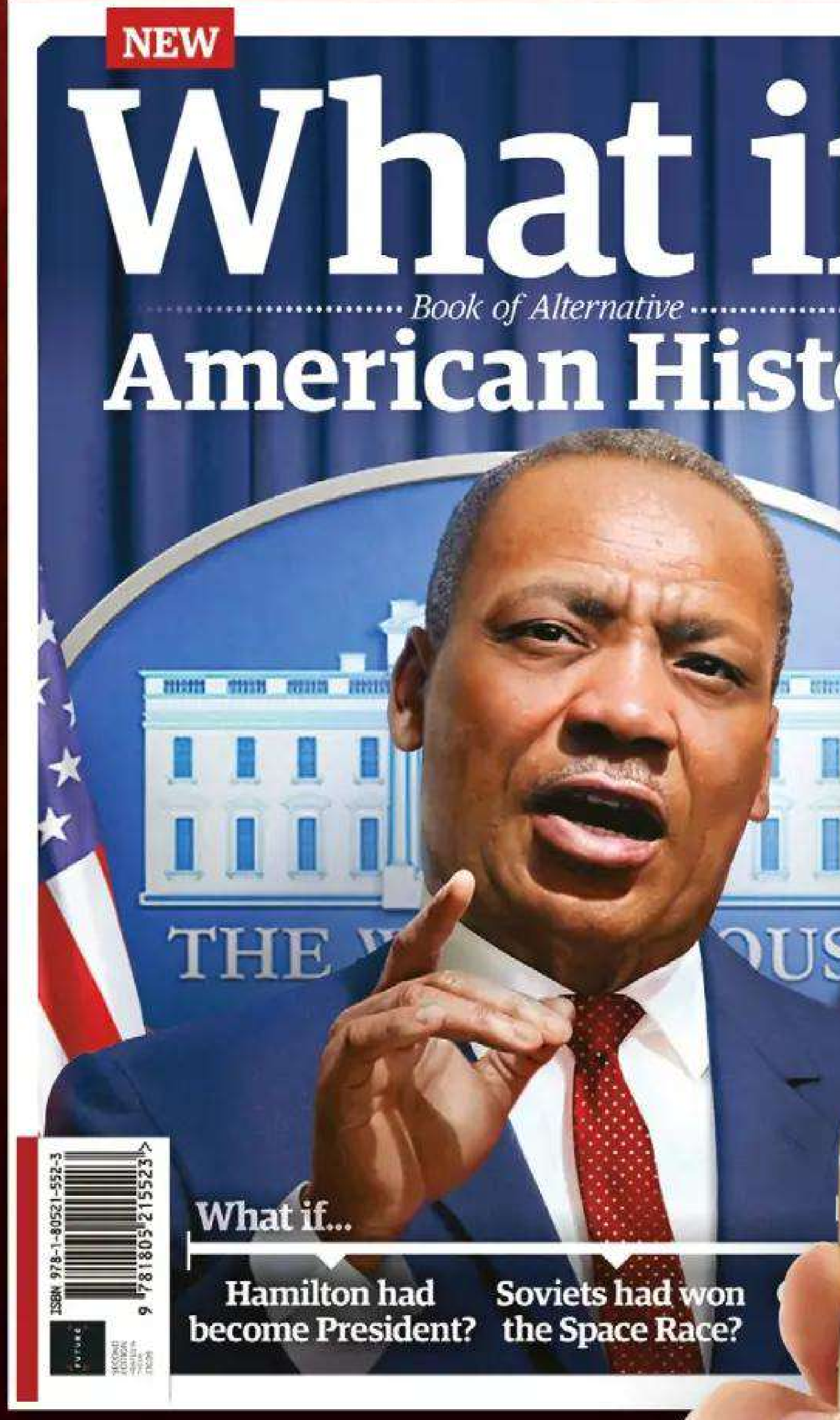
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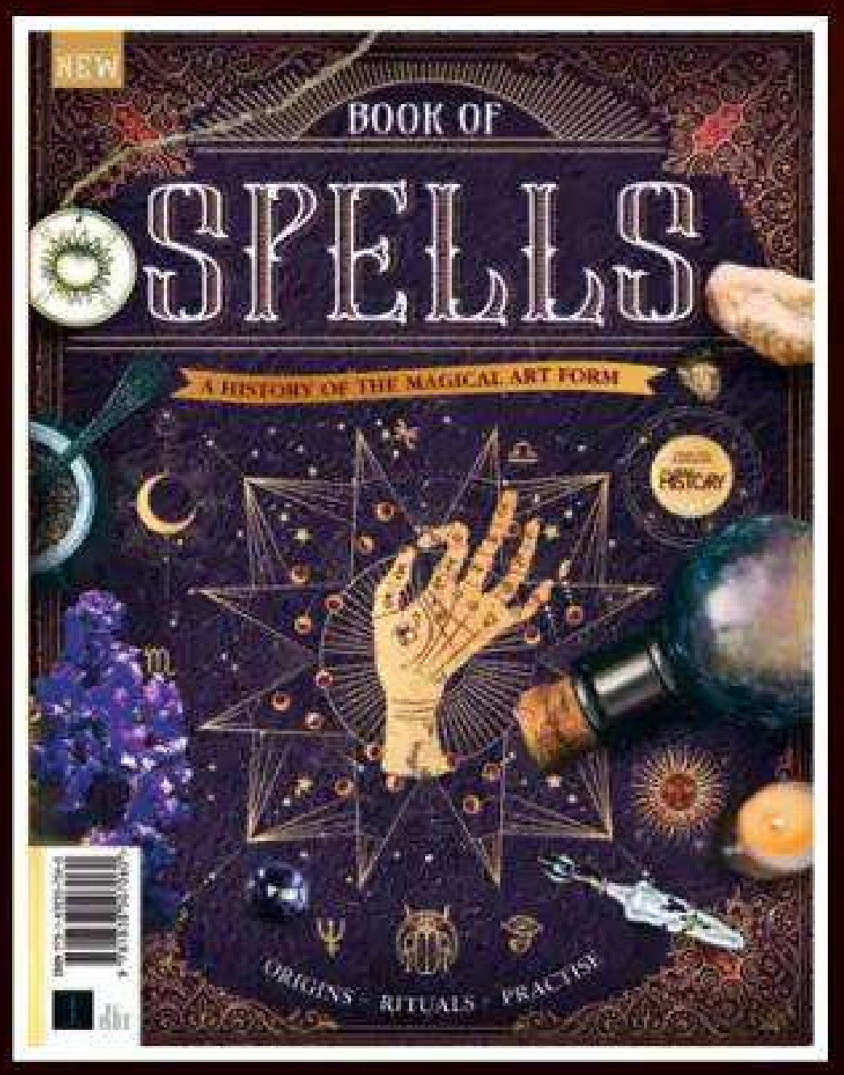
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A Jedburgh commando poses with his full kit, circa 1944

OVERLORD DECLASSIFIED

Before the infantry hit the beaches on 6 June 1944, agents of the fledgling Office of Strategic Services and Allies had been fighting the intelligence war in Occupied France, and laying the groundwork for D-Day

WORDS **JOHN PRADOS**

With the cannonade in full voice, those aboard the invasion fleet lined the gunwales to watch an enemy shore be pummelled by a cascade of shells, bombs, and rockets. It seemed impossible anyone could survive. From their perch aboard heavy cruiser Tuscaloosa, two avid observers were William B Donovan and aide David KE Bruce. "Wild Bill" Donovan was the chief of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), America's World War II spy agency. The nickname came from World War I, in which Donovan's heroics had earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor. David Bruce was OSS chief for Europe, with headquarters in London. This was 6 June 1944. Both Donovan and Bruce had a keen interest in the invasion. The OSS, other spy services, the French Resistance, and so many others had prepared extensively for this day.

However the entire operation might not have happened. Bad weather in the English Channel and off the Normandy beaches forced General Dwight D Eisenhower, commander-in-chief of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF) to postpone D-Day by 24 hours before deciding on a much longer cancellation. Tuscaloosa steamed back toward Bristol on the Celtic Sea. The choppy waters made many ill, but Donovan and Bruce did fine. Wild Bill, excited as a young boy at Christmas, wanted to see action, even though he led a top-secret spy agency. The United States (and Allies) mounted four major amphibious invasions in the European Theatre of Operations. D-Day was the fifth, and Wild Bill had been at four of them. Bruce, a successful lawyer, farmer and politician before the war, was a veteran of ocean cruises and did not sicken easily.

Many have written about how the invasion fleet marked time that day of postponement. Bruce counted more than 75 warships and transports within a few miles of him. This was just off Bristol port, far from the invasion zone. Tuscaloosa and her cohorts reversed course, powering through slower convoys. At one point, now in the Channel, they passed a procession of Landing Craft Tanks (LCTs), four to a row, almost six miles long. The wind freshened. By 2am it was near to gale force and the waves strengthened rather than settled. Bruce, who kept a diary, commented on formations of C-47 aircraft flying over them toward England. Clearly they had loosed their paratroops. The invasion was on. Morning found Tuscaloosa off UTAH Beach adding to the cannonade. The warship shuddered when her heavy guns discharged.

Later in the officers' quarters, Bruce found the salvos had shaken things off tables, as well as loosened screws in the bulkheads and shattered light bulbs. Around mid-morning a German battery targeted Tuscaloosa, the first shot more than a mile away, but adjusting the range until, when the cruiser moved, the next round impacted her previous anchorage. The warship proved lucky. Her worst damage would be something that hit the very suite where General Donovan bunked, wrecking the adjoining bathroom.

> "WILD BILL, EXCITED AS A YOUNG BOY AT CHRISTMAS, WANTED TO SEE ACTION, EVEN THOUGH HE LED A TOP-SECRET SPY AGENCY"

The afternoon of 7 June Wild Bill and Bruce took a launch and transferred to the destroyer escort Rich, which conveyed them to where they boarded a DUKW amphibious vehicle. It took them ashore. They were on the beach, sitting on the "Duck's" hood, when a Luftwaffe fighter-bomber made its strafing run. "Now it will be like this all the time," Donovan quipped. Bruce recorded him grinning happily, and noticed his boss wearing the Medal of Honor ribbon, the only time Bruce had ever seen it. Donovan rolled off the vehicle. Bruce followed. Colonel Bruce's helmet cut Wild Bill's neck, which bled badly. Perhaps it was the spymaster who was the lucky one. Not only did Wild Bill survive the air attack at Utah and the incident on Tuscaloosa, but on 8 June the destroyer escort that had carried him, Rich, struck a mine, suffered critical damage, and sank – one of very few major vessels lost in the Normandy invasion. Donovan seemed to leap from frying pans.

Infiltrating Fortress Europe

Two elements of OSS/Europe were critical for activities on the continent. Special Operations (SO)/London had responsibility for sabotage and paramilitary efforts, while Secret Intelligence (SI)/London focused on espionage. Both worked with the French Resistance.

The Germans talked of Fortress Europe and of having an Atlantic Wall. They had crafted a command net to cover the country, with Alsace-Lorraine controlled from Germany, the border zone in the north administered from Belgium, and a military security command in Paris controlling three zones corresponding to the French Atlantic coast and part of the interior. There was a police higher command too, tasked with supervising French collaborationists.

A separate headquarters commanded the former Vichy France. Under these were regional and territorial security units, the dreaded Secret Field Police, and the notorious Gestapo. The Nazi Party had its own security police (SD) and counterintelligence detachments (RSHA) also. Allied agents and the Resistance had to communicate with London or Algiers by radio, which the Germans were adept at intercepting.

The possibilities of a successful invasion became apparent with Alfred, the very first agent SO/London put into the field. It was the summer of 1943 and the agent parachuted into an area of the German Southwest Security Zone. Ernest F Floege, a Chicagoan, had fought in the American army in France in World War I and stayed on afterwards, settling in Angers, so his native English now had a French lilt. Floege fled to

England with the German conquest in 1940, and the British sabotage agency Special Operations Executive (SOE) recruited him. When the OSS appeared, they shared the agent.

Once dropped back to his former abode, Floege found his way around easily. He assembled a network codenamed Sacristan, and was given a radio operator, André Bouchardon, codenamed Narcisse. Over the summer and autumn of 1943 they received seven supply drops. Settling in a village about 20 miles from Angers, the spies felt safe, and Floege conducted all his business with Sacristan through two couriers, one of them his son. This operation lasted until 21 December.

In Angers, the younger Floege was swept up by a German security cordon, and discovered to have incriminating documents on him. The courier broke under interrogation, revealing all he knew. Field police and Gestapo arrested 45 members of Sacristan, however Alfred and Narcisse were each able to escape.

Bouchardon was eating at a restaurant when a posse of SD goons pushed their way in. He immediately realised what was happening, pushed over the table and ran for the door, startling the Nazis as he passed them. But another group of SD were outside and Bouchardon wrestled with two. As they got a grip, others shot him – a bullet to the thorax and one in each thigh. Thinking Bouchardon dead, Nazi police bundled him into the back seat of their waiting car. One got in next to him. Two more police rode in front, but the Nazis neglected to search the 'dead' man. Narcisse pulled a pistol from his coat and shot all three. The lifeless driver crashed the car into a ditch.

André Bouchardon not only survived the shooting and the crash, but made it to the house of a friend, intending to warn Floege as quickly as he could. Meanwhile the network leader was in his garden next morning when he saw men approach the house, whom he suspected were Gestapo. Ernest climbed the back wall and ran off – to the same friend's house where Bouchardon lay. The two escaped along a Free French "ratline", an underground railroad that smuggled downed Allied airmen to safety. Floege and Bouchardon climbed the Pyrenees – Narcisse with the bullet still in his thorax. They arrived in London on 25 February 1944.

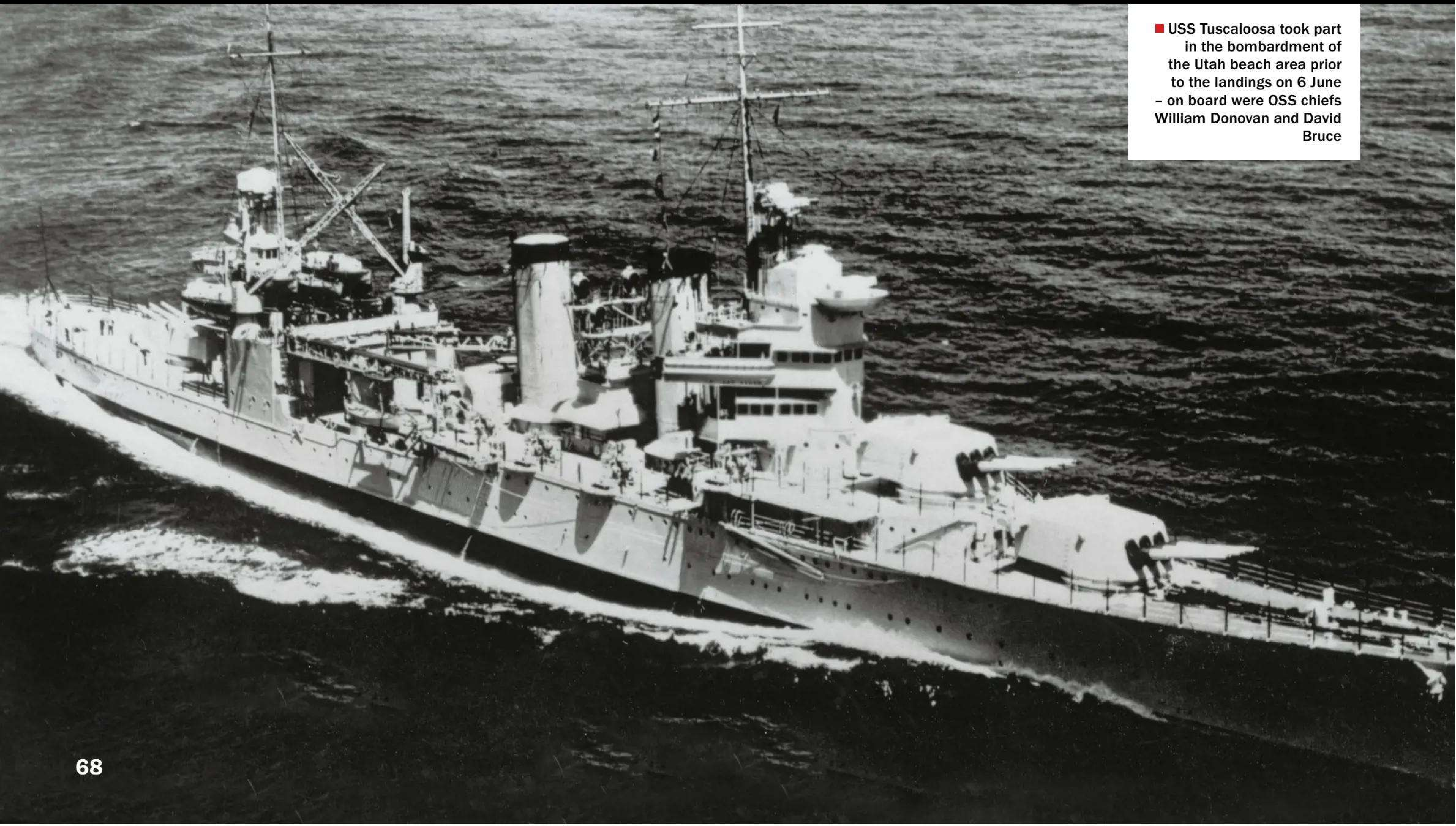
> "THE INVASION WAS ON. MORNING FOUND TUSCALOOSA OFF UTAH BEACH ADDING TO THE CANNONADE. THE WARSHIP SHUDDERED WHEN HER HEAVY GUNS DISCHARGED"

Intelligence divided

The Sacristan network had illustrated a number of obstacles for the Allied spies. One was German security, and another was the French Resistance itself – the maquis – divided across political party, loyalty, and control lines. One faction consisted of the French communist party, which had its own Resistance forces (FTP), however this opposed both other major political movements. Those who considered their guiding star Charles de Gaulle made up the Free French. Free French intelligence, the Bureau Central de Reseignement et d'Action (BCRA), answered to De Gaulle. Frenchmen loyal to leaders from the former French republic, exemplified by General Henri Giraud in North Africa, competed with DeGaulle politically. They controlled the traditional French intelligence agency, the Service de Renseignements (SR). OSS Director Donovan had made an agreement with Giraud for American spies to operate from French North Africa. But in London only the BCRA had a presence, creating a situation where the unit with which the Allies could do business did not actually represent all the French, or control all the maquis.

The task of breaching the Atlantic Wall, and negotiating these sensitive and complex divisions, fell to David Bruce. OSS operatives under Colonel Bruce had to consider whom to support, how support affected Resistance groups' relations with each other, and how OSS/Europe decisions would affect OSS/Algiers cooperation with the North African French. This headache diminished a little in late 1943. DeGaulle and Giraud united into a National Resistance Committee, a provisional government, but higher-level considerations complicated the mix. Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who had created the SOE in 1941 to "set Europe ablaze", hated DeGaulle and viewed "Gaullist" organisations sourly, limiting his spies' cooperation with them.

President Franklin D Roosevelt (FDR) also despised DeGaulle – but FDR stayed his hand at Wild Bill Donovan's door, creating a situation where OSS supported anyone who wanted to kill



USS Tuscaloosa took part in the bombardment of the Utah beach area prior to the landings on 6 June – on board were OSS chiefs William Donovan and David Bruce

Germans, while the British services were highly circumspect about which French they would help, looking askance at OSS profligacy. Thus the SOE, which had had an “F Section”, famously under Maurice Buckmaster, working in tandem with partisans inside France, for a very long time had a separate “RF” apparatus limited to the BCRA. OSS/Europe, modelling itself on the British SOE, replicated the bifurcation between F and RF units within SO/London.

Churchill and Roosevelt’s antipathy for DeGaulle led to a determination to keep the Free French leader ignorant of the D-Day invasion planning. At the same time their intelligence services needed to arrange with the French, including the BCRA, for Resistance support to be provided to the invasion.

That gave David Bruce the headache of ensuring his activities fit with British intelligence services’ efforts while getting French cooperation on something they could not know about.

The OSS’ British cradle

Great Britain’s spy experience spanned centuries. The British considered the Americans upstarts, while at the same time teaching the OSS what they knew. London had problems of its own that affected OSS, among them the confusions of having different intelligence units working the same street – a traditional Secret Intelligence Service (SIS, or MI-6) seeking information, and the Special Operations Executive (SOE) aimed at undermining the German occupiers.

In Algiers in late 1943 the Allies’ services met to plan spy support for an invasion of the continent. By then Allied armies were knocking Italy out of the war and looking ahead to retaking France. How to concert plans with the French without tipping off DeGaulle became a most contentious issue.

For the Office of Strategic Services, D-Day marked both the moment for which it had prepared, and the instant all the hypotheticals became realities. David Bruce – OSS agent #105 – also faced the challenge of an infant spy agency – the OSS had existed for less than two years and 13 June would be its second birthday. In addition, every piece of OSS/London had been built from scratch. William Donovan – OSS agent #109 – had led a predecessor unit called the Coordinator of Information – that was when Bruce joined. This functioned more as an information broker, with a bit of psychological warfare at the margin but mostly research and analysis. The transition to OSS lay precisely in creating action capabilities – and that had been Donovan’s assignment for Bruce. When the latter protested he knew nothing about secret operations, Wild Bill assured him that no one else did either!

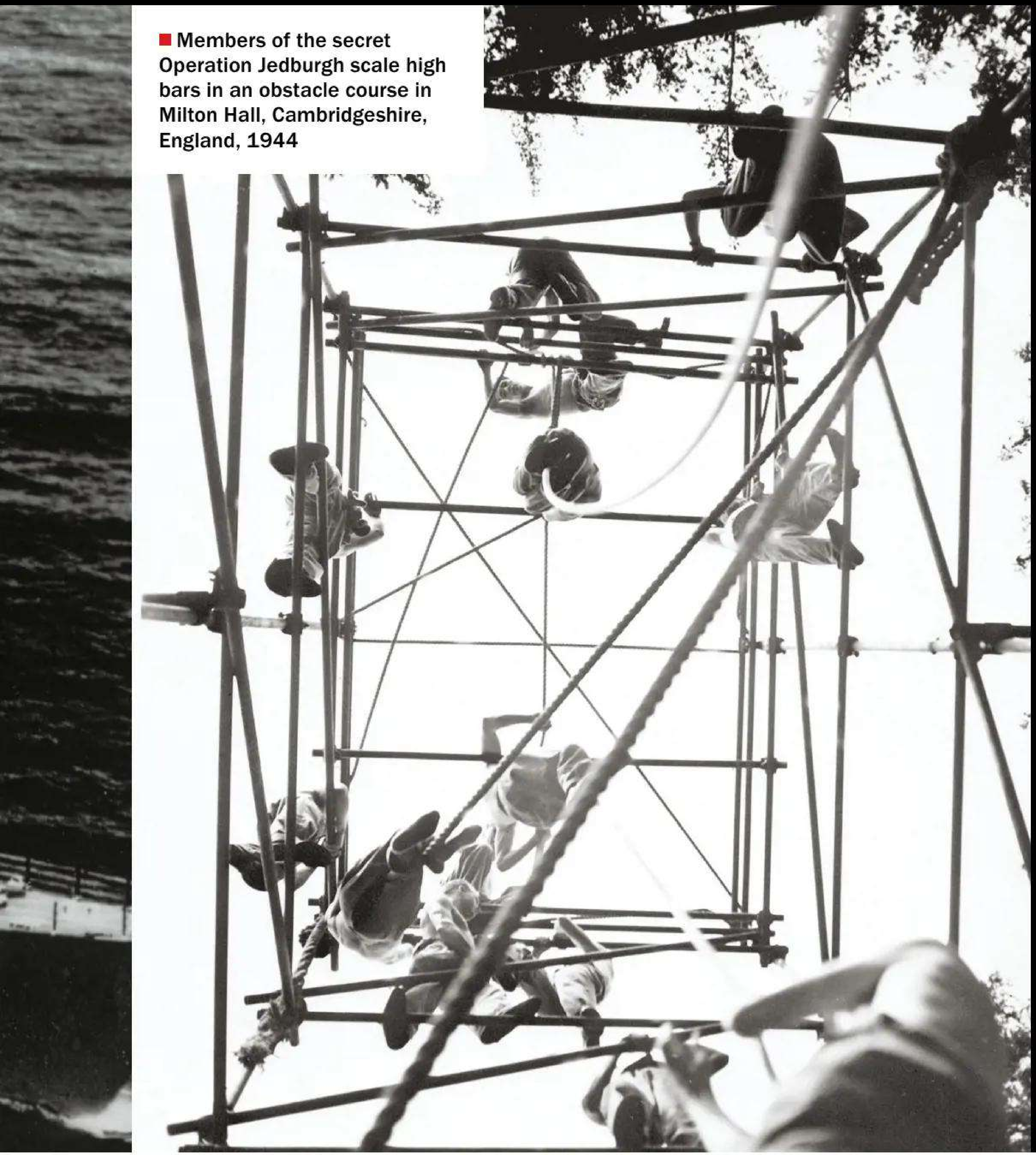
OSS/London set up shop at 70 Grosvenor Street, halfway down the road from the American embassy, and across Grosvenor Square from SHAEF headquarters. General Donovan’s arrangement with the British essentially boiled down to agreeing they approve all OSS ops mounted from the United Kingdom, which in turn worked best when they were joint ones.

The OSS soon became a multifaceted agency, including a Morale Operations (MO) branch, which was created to conduct psychological warfare. These followed the lead of the British Political Warfare Executive. Bruce’s Secret Intelligence branch paired with the British SIS, while Special Operations became so close to SOE that a sort of joint unit emerged called SOE/SO. Counterintelligence, which OSS called X-2, paired with Section V of SIS and the British secret service MI-5. The next question for the fledgling agency was developing programs, training people, then actually conducting operations.

In May 1943 the OSS MO chief visited London to hash out basic Allied cooperation. For a long time MO at OSS/London was the agency’s only operating outlet. Led by journalist Rae H. Smith, the branch was dominated by people from that profession, which was a positive in terms of getting out material, but shortchanging the psy-war end of the business. For example, radio broadcasting was tempting, but the British had the BBC. By far MO’s biggest problem would be the reluctance of the front line spies – SI and SO sections – to distribute any Morale Operations materials. For security reasons, the spies did not want to smuggle or distribute leaflets and similar items. They did help MO with propagating rumours, which could reach widening circles through the French Resistance. Leaflets, delivered by air, became the main substantive product for MO (along with the Office of War Information). These were produced in “nickels”, or blocks of 4,000 pieces. In January 1944, aircraft of the 801st Bombardment Group delivered 48 nickels of leaflets, building to more than 2,200 nickels in time for Operation Overlord in June.

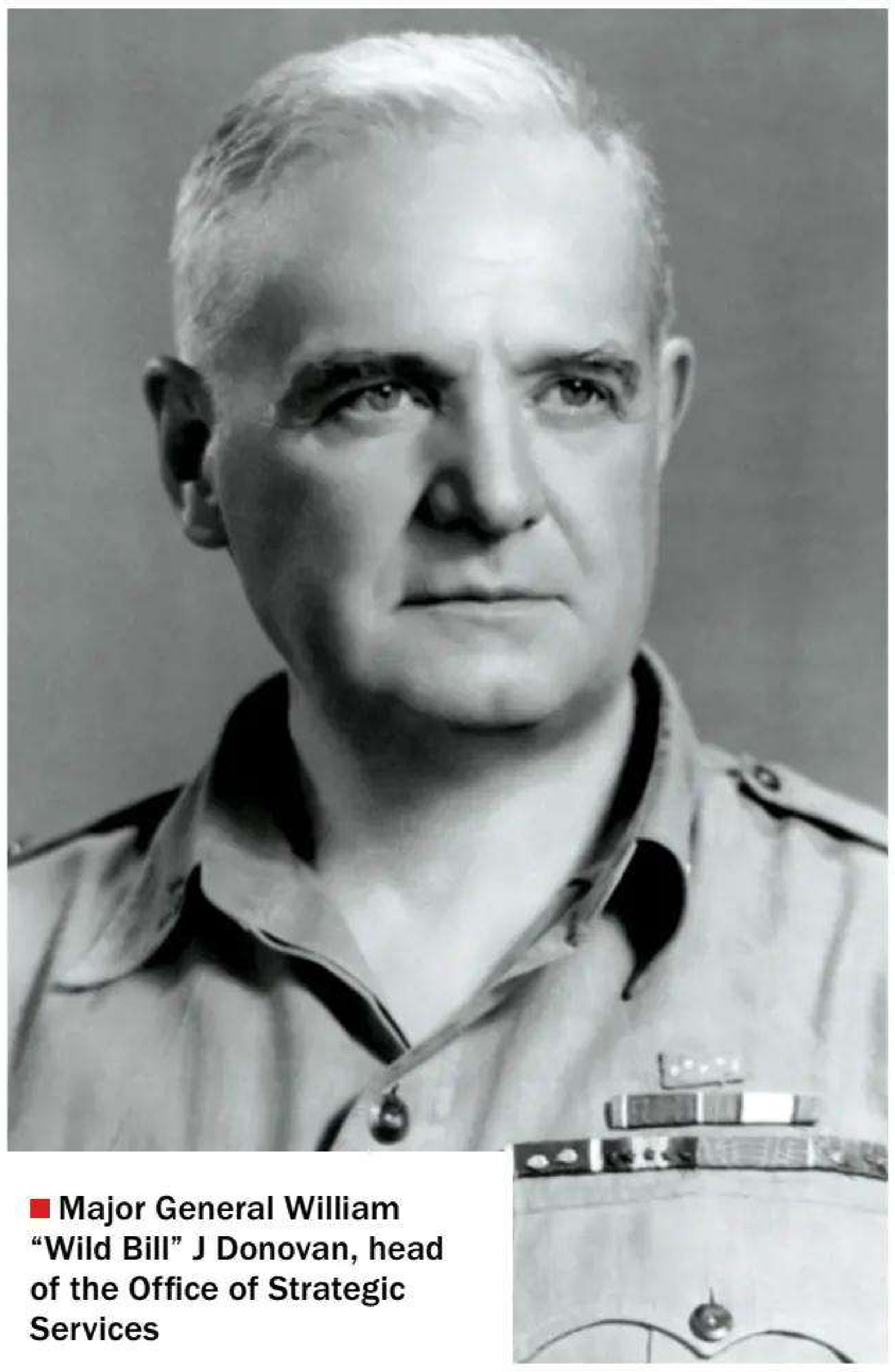
Operation Sussex and the Jedburghs

Secret Intelligence prepared for D-Day by combining with the British SIS and French BCRA for a joint spy mission. SI/London, led through most of this period by William P. Maddox – OSS agent #148 – plus the British and the French, started by identifying 50 intelligence targets in Normandy, half in what would become the British

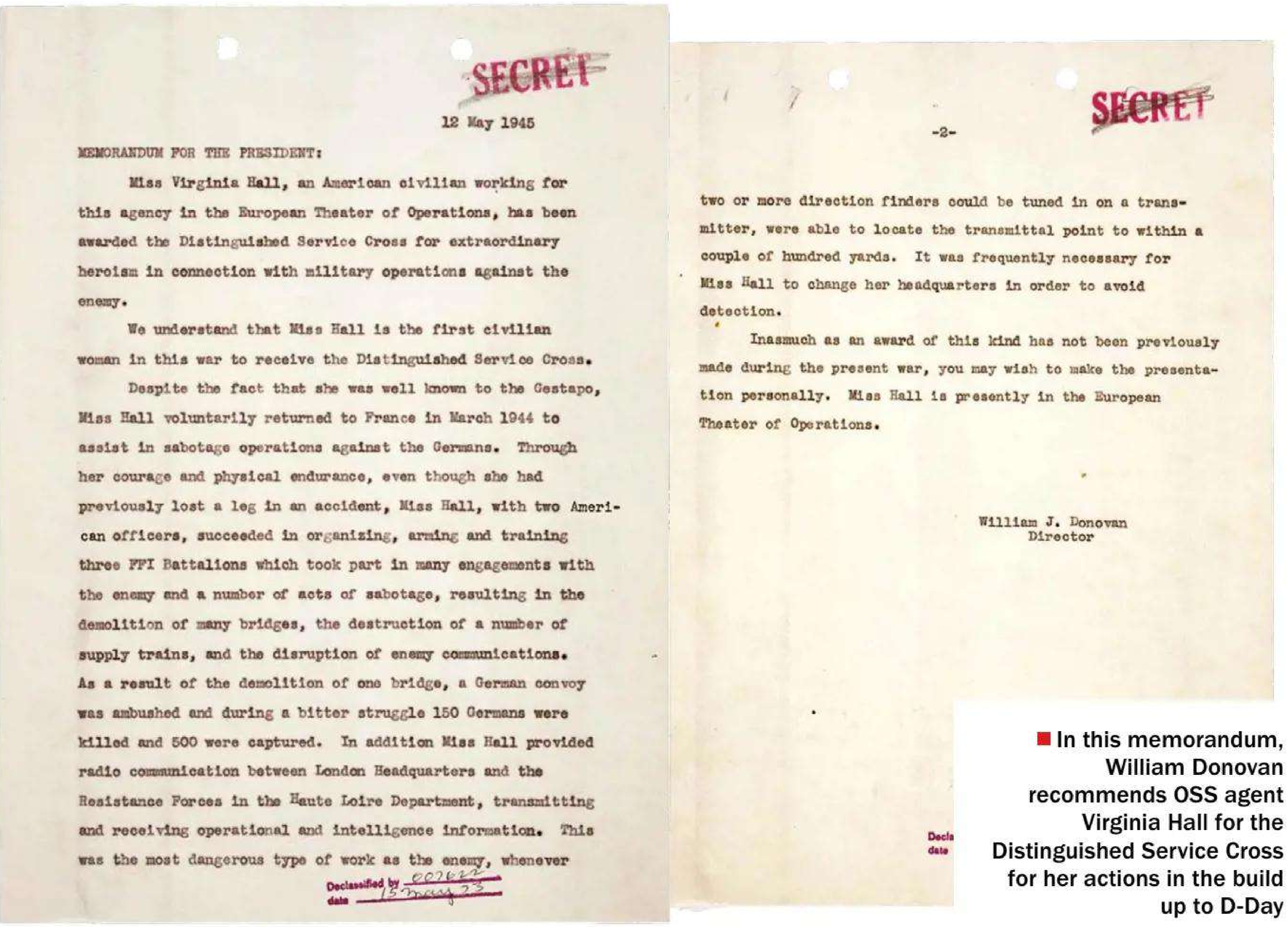


Members of the secret Operation Jedburgh scale high bars in an obstacle course in Milton Hall, Cambridgeshire, England, 1944

Former head of the OSS in Europe, David Bruce, is awarded the Benjamin Franklin Medal by Prince Philip, 1971



■ Major General William "Wild Bill" J Donovan, head of the Office of Strategic Services



SECRET

12 May 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Miss Virginia Hall, an American civilian working for this agency in the European Theater of Operations, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy.

We understand that Miss Hall is the first civilian woman in this war to receive the Distinguished Service Cross.

Despite the fact that she was well known to the Gestapo, Miss Hall voluntarily returned to France in March 1944 to assist in sabotage operations against the Germans. Through her courage and physical endurance, even though she had previously lost a leg in an accident, Miss Hall, with two American officers, succeeded in organizing, arming and training three FFI Battalions which took part in many engagements with the enemy and a number of acts of sabotage, resulting in the demolition of many bridges, the destruction of a number of supply trains, and the disruption of enemy communications. As a result of the demolition of one bridge, a German convoy was ambushed and during a bitter struggle 150 Germans were killed and 500 were captured. In addition Miss Hall provided radio communication between London Headquarters and the Resistance Forces in the Haute Loire Department, transmitting and receiving operational and intelligence information. This was the most dangerous type of work as the enemy, whenever

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two or more direction finders could be tuned in on a transmitter, were able to locate the transmittal point to within a couple of hundred yards. It was frequently necessary for Miss Hall to change her headquarters in order to avoid detection.

Inasmuch as an award of this kind has not been previously made during the present war, you may wish to make the presentation personally. Miss Hall is presently in the European Theater of Operations.

William J. Donovan
Director

■ In this memorandum, William Donovan recommends OSS agent Virginia Hall for the Distinguished Service Cross for her actions in the build up to D-Day

sector, half the American. What became Plan Sussex had a tripartite committee in charge: Colonel Francis P. Miller headed the American contingent, Colonel Gilbert Renault-Roulier (nom de guerre Rémy) the French. Key OSS participants included Hanson W Baldwin, later a noted author and *New York Times* reporter, Henry H Proctor, chief of air dispatch, and Ernest L Byfield, a trainer. Each Sussex target would be covered by a team of two, one person the lead agent, the other a radio operator.

Delays assembling the teams were exacerbated by the need to keep DeGaulle in the dark, plus BCRA's political differences with the Giraudists. Kenneth Cohen, the SIS officer who led the British section of Sussex and the tripartite committee controlling it, worried about the quality of French selectees.

In the lead mission, Sussex landed Frenchwoman Jeannette Guyot (nom de guerre Gauthier) on 8 February 1944. She travelled most of the country, locating drop zones and arranging reception committees. Gauthier personally met the first nine teams, leading them to safehouses. Sussex began infiltrating France in April, when two British and an OSS team were inserted. By D-Day 21 Sussex teams were operating in the field (a British source gives 15) and one of the American teams, OSSEX-6, sent in reports enabling SHAEF to identify the Panzer Lehr Division, which some regard as worth the cost of the entire program.

Joseph F Haskell's SO/London was held in pride of place for its work with the Resistance, sabotage, and paramilitary action. The two best-known OSS programs – the "Jedburgh" Resistance liaison teams, and the Operational Groups (OGs) – OSS special operations units – both belonged to SO. The "Jeds" were three-person multinational teams – usually an Englishman, an American, and a Frenchman – sent to assist Resistance groups. The Operational Groups were small commandos, 15 or 30 men intended for direct action.

London sent four missions to Resistance groups before D-Day, mostly in April and May. Four more followed in the week after the landings. Most, however (18 actually), took their places as the fighting continued. The Jedburghs too were primed to go with the landings, not before. In fact, the first unit landed on the continent, Team Hugh, sent to Central France on the night of 5/6 June, was recalled from an exercise to participate in the invasion. SO/London also had five Operational Groups in England primed for action. None went ahead of D-Day.

> "THE "JEDS" WERE THREE-PERSON MULTINATIONAL TEAMS – USUALLY AN ENGLISHMAN, AN AMERICAN, AND A FRENCHMAN – SENT TO ASSIST RESISTANCE GROUPS"

North Africa connections

Lieutenant Colonel William P Davis, chief of Special Operations/Algiers, was Haskell's counterpart in North Africa. In early 1944 he joined with SOE to create a combined unit, the Special Projects Operations Center. This ran OSS and SOE efforts in southern France and supported the invasion of the Riviera coast, after Normandy, called Anvil-Dragoon. Davis and Haskell divided the two marquee special ops, Jedburghs and the OGs. On D-Day there would be a half-dozen Operational Groups in North Africa – more than were currently in England. North Africa also served as launch point for nearly 30 per cent of Jedburgh missions.

Another SO/Algiers activity was Operation Medusa. This harnessed former French army officers. Medusa had "chains" crossing France, feeding back intelligence. Small teams took advantage of Spain's neutrality to infiltrate occupied France.

The project has been described as the biggest OSS spy network in Europe. The agency had just the fellow to run it. Lieutenant Commander Thomas G Cassady, Jr, a veteran of both the Foreign Legion and the US Army air corps – a World War I fighter ace – had been in the naval attaché office at Vichy. Cassady had made four trips across the demarcation line between Vichy and occupied France when the Germans took over the Vichy zone in November 1942, interning American embassy personnel. With diplomatic immunity, Cassady was held until exchanged in February 1944. He spent just a week in Algiers before being reactivated for Medusa. Cassady already had the agent net to tap.SHAEF assumed a larger role in the intelligence war from early 1944, with General Eisenhower taking control of all D-Day-related intelligence activities on 23 March. The consolidation was similar to what happened in Algiers. The French undertook a merger of their Resistance forces into the French Forces of the Interior (FFI) under General Pierre Koenig. In addition the Committee for National Liberation named delegates to the various Resistance zones. The alliance remained shaky because the French sides viewed each other warily, while, on the ground, the communists and some other independent French networks did

not join the FFI. Meanwhile, Joe Haskell of SO/London, plus the SOE, formed a Special Forces Headquarters (SFHQ) about five weeks before D-Day. SFHQ took control of all operations out of England and maintained a War Room dedicated to clandestine activities. On 20 May the overlords of the secret war met at SFHQ to make their final invasion arrangements.

Air delivery – of operatives, agents, teams, commandos – made it all possible. It made sense to have air units focused on secret operations, but the Eighth Air Force, the US Army Air Force (USAAF) strategic bomber command in Europe, resisted diverting aircraft to this effort, as it saw them as secondary tasks. Having lost 60 of its 337 bombers (a loss rate of 18 per cent) in the 17 August 1943 raids on Schweinfurt and Regensburg, Eighth felt it needed every plane. For example, reassigning just two squadrons (36 aircraft) to secret operations at that moment would have diverted eight per cent of the Eighth Air Force's total capacity.

However aircraft production in the US was increasing and secret war requirements had to be met. Haskell produced a paper on October 12 outlining how an air bridge would aid the Resistance. Lieutenant General Jacob L Devers, then the senior American officer in England, approved a two-squadron commitment. USAAF had some B-24s that had been flying anti-submarine missions and lacked oxygen systems and other equipment for strategic bombing. Using these planes for the secret war seemed feasible. Colonel Clifford J Heflin and his deputy, Major Robert W Fish, met Haskell and other OSS officers at the base RAF Bovington on 24 October. From a list of approved codenames the airmen chose "Carpetbaggers".

Heflin and some of his 12th Anti-Submarine Squadron pilots moved to RAF Tempsford to tag along on British missions. On the night of 3/4 November one of the RAF planes went down with Captain James E Estes, who became the first Carpetbagger casualty.

RAF Harrington became the centre for Heflin's flight activity, which included a makeshift OSS packing facility to prepare the loads for shipment. These B-24 bombers were modified for Carpetbagger work – painted black, with a black gloss to reduce the radar signature. In addition, the planes' instrument panels were repositioned in front of the pilots' eyes, to prioritise those gauges most important to low-level flight. There were also extra navigation aids fitted, flame arresters over the engine exhausts, muzzle masks for machine guns, and more. The planes were stripped of armour, nose and some waist guns, and given extra lift capacity. The most critical modification would be removal of the bottom ball turret, replaced by a hole – soon called the "Joe" hole – from which operatives would parachute.

A typical Carpetbagger mission began the previous afternoon, when the Air Operations desk, OSS/London, used a scrambler phone to notify approved targets. First thing in the morning, Heflin or Fish huddled with meteorologists to decide which missions were practicable. The final list would be sent to the OSS liaison at Harrington as soon as it was ready. Before noon, Heflin summoned squadron commanders to hand out targets. Navigators

Supplies for the maquis during the Battle of France float to earth after leaving the bomb bays of 8th US Air Force B-17 Flying Fortresses

started planning routes about noontime, while at mid-afternoon navigators turned over their flight plans for review, while crews gathered for an overview from Fish, a brief by squadron intel officers and weather predictions from the meteorologists. OSS liaison ensured each aircraft had the correct load, while SO/London officers escorted the Joes (female agents were called Janes) until they boarded the plane.

The Carpetbaggers had unusual prerogatives by USAAF standards. Group commanders in the Eighth Air Force could not refuse missions, but from 9 April 1944, Heflin could do so. Pilots were authorised to terminate flights until just before the drop point. Crewmen could refuse any mission without consequence. For all that, the men of the 801st Bombardment Group (Provisional) often flew in weather where the Eighth Air Force stayed on the ground. The command and the operational units (36th and 406th squadrons) all shared the flying duty and it was dangerous. On 5 April 1944 a Carpetbagger B-24 succumbed to German flak crossing the French coast. Six of the eight-man crew were lost. On 27/28 April, another B-24 hit its wing on a tree, killing five of eight. Exactly a month later the Germans caught a B-24 in a trap over Belgium, where flak and a night-fighter combined to blow it out of the sky. USAAF records show that between March and June 1944, nine Carpetbagger aircraft were lost on missions and three more operationally, with 91 airmen lost.

After a first mission on 4 January 1944, Carpetbagger activity became constant. Between then and March the group flew 142 missions, 69 successfully completed. They delivered 810 containers, and 267 packages of supplies, for 133 tons. But that paled next to the pre-D-Day months of April and May. In April alone Carpetbaggers delivered 223 tons, in May 301.

The flow of Joes started with two operatives in March but really picked up in May, when the Carpetbaggers flew 40 spies to the continent. The redoubtable spies Ernest Floege and André Bouchardon returned to France on 6 May, delivered by Carpetbagger Flight 373.

The air bridge added unmistakable value, which General Donovan did not miss. In the spring of 1944 he pressed for more planes and that February SO/London's Haskell told Donovan that the British special operations airlift put the Americans to shame. Wild Bill then sent USAAF leaders a paper advocating two or three more Carpetbagger-type squadrons for Europe (plus additional aircraft for the Mediterranean). Even the State Department got into the act, informing USAAF that the emerging French government might interpret meagre US support for the Resistance as an unfriendly act. On 2 May, General Eisenhower ordered the Eighth Air Force to increase the Carpetbagger force by two additional squadrons. Re-designated the 492nd Bombardment Group, Colonel Heflin's Carpetbaggers would have 64 aircraft to support the invasion of France.

> “SABOTAGE BECAME BIG BUSINESS IN THE MONTHS BEFORE D-DAY”

Meanwhile General Eisenhower pressed for more concerted plans. In early 1944 SOE/SO had obliged, crafting a set of plans targeting 1,188 rail facilities, 30 road bridges, and 32 telecommunications sites. The plans (“Green” for railroads, “Blue” for electric production, “Violet” for communications, “Tortoise” for bridges and roads) could be activated by broadcasting innocent-sounding messages on the BBC. One umbrella message, alerting the Resistance to the invasion, would mobilise all forces. The high command even carried out experiments – in mid-January, for example, ordering widespread Resistance strikes on the French rail net to gauge its capacity for Plan Green. SFHQ created a map estimating local readiness for rail attacks nationwide.

Specific targets during these missions were always controversial. William J Casey, chief of Bruce's executive secretariat at OSS/London, remembers how the Economic Objectives Unit, another joint entity between the British Board of Economic Warfare and OSS/R&A (which had acquired a reputation for calling good targets for strategic bombing), advocated knocking out bridges as the way to stall German rail transport. Solly Zuckerman, a British scientist (as well as a central figure in applying the quasi-mathematical method called operations research), favoured bombing railway yards. Zuckerman – who fought fiercely against the air generals to get bombers taken from strategic bombing to devote to the invasion, insists he did view bridges as prime targets. SHAEF added the bridges to the target list a month ahead of the invasion. Planners cut back the rail sabotage plan to 1,050 targets – French Resistance bands attacked all but a hundred of them.

Sabotage became big business in the months before D-Day. One of several standard cargo loads for Carpetbaggers contained 145 or 290 pounds of plastic explosive (depending on the number of containers). Factories and power plants, electric grid elements like pylons, telephone or telegraph lines, and rail locomotives became favourite maquis prey. A bridge could be dropped with as little as 200lbs of explosives. A factory could be crippled by surreptitious revisions to a blueprint. During six months through June, SFHQ supervised 50 major sabotage operations, three times as many as SOE had accomplished since 1941. According to OSS raconteur Casey, all that required just 1.5 tons of explosives.

By far the most strategic OSS operation – and the most aggressive too – would be SFHQ's move into the Brittany peninsula. Here the mission actually started with the French – alongside the invasion, SFHQ sent troopers of the 4th Special Air Service (SAS) battalion to Brittany, which was actually a French special operations unit, with four additional SAS parties to follow (mostly British troopers). OSS took a hand on 9/10 June, sending two Jedburgh teams. Pitched battles with German occupiers began on 12 June. Partisans welled up in Brittany, bringing appeals for OSS weapons. German troops up to battalion strength actually surrendered to OSS teams during these missions. Jed teams Frederick and George became the first of seven inserted before the end of July, when US troops broke out of Normandy and entered Brittany. In August, SFHQ committed another Jed team plus some agents. Before the campaign ended, 30,000 partisans had mobilised.

Secret service commanders worried the Resistance might telegraph its intentions or, worse, provoke the Germans to break up networks or maquis groups just when these became critical to invasion strategy. This nearly happened. Kept in the dark about D-Day, the FFI planned a show of force. The maquis would clear and hold an area in central or southern France, French paratroops could join to stiffen the defences, then representatives of the provisional government would appear, giving DeGaulle's government its first presence on French soil. The plan changed, and its focus moved from central France, and then it was cancelled. But in central France, Colonel Emile Coulandon (nom de guerre Gaspard), went ahead anyway. SI/London, or at least Bill Casey, thought Gaspard was running an independent fiefdom. But the maquis leader engaged seriously with a team from Buckmaster's F Section, and with the agent who led Stationer, one of the biggest SOE networks in southern France.

Gaspard met the Stationer chief to concert action in mid-April. Afterward the agent, Maurice Southgate, asked London to supply arms, which it did, along with an SOE agent team. Gaspard called in local maquis leaders and they selected several assembly points: basically back country strongholds. On 8/9 May BCRA dispatched an inter-Allied mission, Benjoin, to Gaspard, just in time because Nazi security arrested agent Southgate. On 10/11 May Gaspard received a big arms shipment. A week later the SOE and BCRA teams met and both agreed to work with the maquis, though Gaspard showed clear preference for SOE. The Resistance chief already had a permanent force of a couple thousand, but after 20 May posted calls to general mobilisation on town halls in the Auvergne region. OSS was aghast at the breach of secrecy. Indeed they raced with Nazi security. On 27 May the Nazis arrested another top Resistance figure.

Several thousand more men responded to Gaspard's call. His first camp filled up and others had to be activated. There were 28 Carpetbagger flights – mostly British – between 26 May and 9 June. If the Germans had not been tipped off by the mobilisation, they certainly were by the air activity. On 1 June General Fritz von Brodowski, of the German regional staff 588, asked for reinforcements to fight the Resistance. The next day a battalion of 800 SS were repulsed when they attacked. Brodowski got his reinforcements.

A column of 5,000 German troops, including flak units, SS Police, and eastern battalions, drove Gaspard out of his first stronghold and then others. But the fighting extended late into June. London and Algiers committed three Jedburgh teams plus OG Emily to this fray. Group Emily blasted a couple of important bridges and sabotaged 28 locomotives, incapacitating the Toulouse-to-Paris rail line.

Resistance actions for the most part did not take place in the D-Day landing zone. Not only were Allied leaders preoccupied elsewhere, such as by the antics of Gaspard, but Nazi security kept on its toes. German counterintelligence broke up the Rouen network Salesman, the Normandy network Donkeyman, and an SOE group around Bordeaux. Ironically, among the most active groups on the Calvados (Normandy) coast was the communist FTP. SOE and FTP-related groups were particularly effective in the Lisieux area, east of Caen. This was a node on the Germans' northern reinforcement route. It was on 10 June, to the north, above the Seine, that the Nazis trapped Violette Szabo, a famous female operative, who would later be executed at Ravensbrück on 26 January 1945.

Possibly the best-known Resistance action after D-Day took place to the south. This was the maquis effort to delay the 2nd SS Panzer Division's move from Montauban to the combat zone. A trip estimated to require three days consumed 17. Elements of the division got mixed up in the fight against Gaspard's maquisards,

A French woman, stepping forward from the jeering crowd, curses a captured German soldier who is being marched through town at gunpoint by members of the French Resistance to recapture Tulle from the FTP on 9 June, and then engaged in horrid reprisals, especially at Oradour-sur-Glane the next day, where SS troops herded 642 women and children into a church and then burned it atop their heads.

OSS/London could do little to impede the 2nd SS Panzers directly. SFHQ put a Jed team, Ian, below the Loire on 20/21 June, but that came late in the game. Supplies to the Resistance lifted all maquis efforts. June 1944 was the first month the new Carpetbagger squadrons flew, and their help showed. Colonel Heflin's retitled 492nd Bombardment Group deposited 64 Joes on the continent and delivered 401 tons of supplies, one-third more than the previous month. This increase, while welcome, hardly matched the need. Many maquisards who had guns possessed few or no bullets, others had nothing at all. The FFI worried that, instead of an uprising, they were about to witness the slaughter of the Resistance. On 10 June FFI commander General Koenig ordered a cutback in operations, citing the impossibility of keeping them supplied.

That same day began a sequence of events in the Vercors, the mountains overlooking the Rhone valley just west of Grenoble, which illuminated Koenig's concerns. At the Saint-Nizier pass the FFI kept an observation post perfect for watching traffic into and out of the city. The day of Koenig's instruction, two companies of German infantry attacked it. The outgunned maquisards held on long enough for partisans to arrive, beating back the enemy.

A few days later the Germans returned, outnumbering the partisans five to one. They broke into Saint-Nizier and burned it down. General Karl Pflaum of the 157th Reserve Division then organised Operation Bettina. He retrained troops – 13 infantry battalions, one of tanks from the 9th Panzer Division and one airborne – forming them into mobile columns, with night exercises and instruction in camouflage. The Germans brought up armour and put 70 aircraft at a nearby field. Bettina even featured paratroops in a glider assault. Pflaum deployed 11,000 soldiers for the Vercors operation. One oddity was that the Luftwaffe, despite complete Allied control of the air, could act with impunity.

Frenchmen thumbed their noses at the Germans on 3 July, when the regional delegate of the Committee of National Liberation declared that the French Republic had been restored. By this time the secret warriors had taken a hand – the inter-Allied team Eucalyptus and the OG Justine were both in Vercors before the end of June. The OG troopers began training the partisans, whose French commander, in conjunction with declaration of the republic, decided to militarise.

The German Army Group G, responsible for southern France issued final orders for Bettina the next day. Resistance leaders declared a mobilisation on 11 July. A thousand Frenchmen joined the ranks while another 600 helped clear a landing strip.

By this time, Carpetbagger operations were changing. As Allied forces expanded their lodgement and the Resistance began to have cleared areas demands for aircraft landings, not just parachute drops, rose. Colonel Heflin's squadrons traded in some of their B-24s for C-47 transports, meaning it became crucial to figure out how much runway a C-47 needed. Captain Wilmer R Stapel made "touch-and-go" landings outside Harrington, as many as 20 a day, to establish the short landing requirements. Stapel flew co-pilot alongside Heflin on the night of 6/7 July when the Carpetbaggers carried a sabotage team to a point near the Swiss border. OSS officer Owen D Johnson met the plane, which partisans camouflaged. Crewmen stayed two-and-a-half days before flying back. By late August, when the Carpetbaggers began regular C-47 operations, they would have four planes which, in a month, delivered 78 Joes and 52 tons of supplies, returning with 213 passengers plus mail to send home.

The flight was important as an observation of the little corner of France where the Luftwaffe held sway. The idea of using a massive daylight lift by regular bombers to succour the Resistance became the next innovation. The Heflin C-47 flight checked German defence capabilities and the day after he returned, Heflin briefed Colonel Bruce. USAAF had planned a lift, called Operation Cadillac, for France's Bastille Day, 14 July and Vercors came first among six drop zones. Some 72 B-17s dropped 1,457 containers. In London, David Bruce and Clifford Heflin lunched with Eighth Air Force commander General Carl Spaatz. What they did not know about was German countermeasures. The Luftwaffe immediately bombed and strafed the drop zone. Precious few supplies (200 containers) were recovered. By 16 July nearby Vassieux lay in ruins.

General Pflaum's Bettina had been intended for 21 July, but after the mass airdrop the Germans accelerated their attack. Mobile columns immediately began pressing the perimeters of the Resistance base area. On 17 July fighting flared. Lieutenant Andrew E Pecquet, the OSS radioman for the Eucalyptus mission, furnished what information London got from the Vercors. Next day the maquis leader declared martial law. Two days later the Germans staged

■ A sabotage organised by the FTPF of the 9th BARA company, of the resistance fighters federation of the Haute-Saone region, caused the derailment of an oil train near Faverney

"MANY MAQUISARDS WHO HAD GUNS POSSESSED FEW OR NO BULLETS, OTHERS HAD NOTHING AT ALL"

■ Robert Capa (left) and Ernest Hemingway (right) with their US Army driver. They are waiting to follow an American armoured unit into action near Mont Bocard, France, 30 July 1944

a glider assault at Vassieux and the maquis airfield outside it. The gliders disgorged 200 tough paratroopers. German losses were heavy – a quarter the first day – and on the 20 July rain kept away reinforcements, but the next day another 250 paratroops joined the battle. In response, OG Justine along with 75 maquisards attempted a counterattack.

Automatic weapons fire and Luftwaffe strafing drove them off. The Germans landed a high capacity flak gun that blew away maquis positions even as the mobile columns made their way up the plateau.

At mid-afternoon, 23 July, Resistance leader François Huet ordered the partisans to disperse. The Eucalyptus team split up. Pecquet hid the radio equipment in a cave and used his fluent French to disguise himself. The British officers evaded with a party of four partisans. When the group split, a German patrol caught the others, who were executed horribly. The Brits and one maquisard, gone to look for water, pushed ahead to Switzerland. Meanwhile the OSS Operational Group marched into the mountains too. They actually played cat and mouse with the Germans until after the mid-August Anvil-Dragoon invasion. Once the Germans fled, OG Justine entered Grenoble on 24 August. The OSSers finally connected with US troops.

While the sides played contended in Vercors, the Allies finally broke out of Normandy. General George S Patton's US Third Army benefitted from the SFHQ offensive campaign in Brittany. Patton cut back the force he sent into Brittany to a single corps, and those troops moved like lightning, their way smoothed by the Resistance. Other Third Army troops completed the encirclement of the Germans in Normandy and exploited into the French interior.

OSS again came to Patton's aid with Lieutenant Colonel Robert I Powell's Special Operations Field Detachment 11. Each US army had one of these detachments, which linked with FFI bands to create auxiliary forces to shield the Americans' far flanks. Some 2,500 to 7,000 partisans served here, and as the French campaign went on, as many as 25,000 additional FFI joined up.

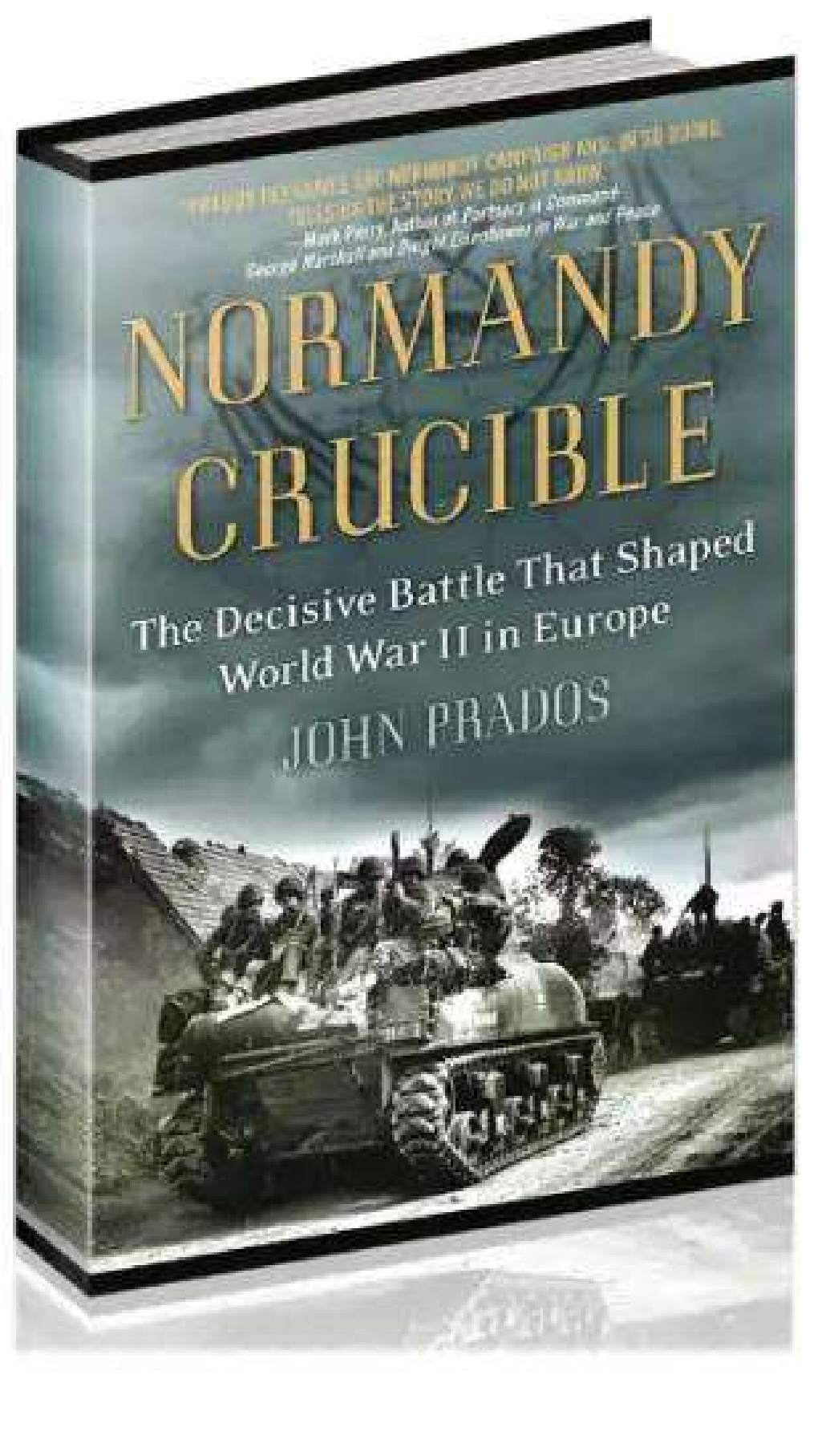
With the breakout, the Allies finally aimed directly at Paris. The Free French 2nd Armoured Division raced American troops for the French capital. On 7 August Colonel Bruce plus aides left England for the continent. He circuited the top headquarters, the armies, and his various OSS commands. The first sally into the interior, after visiting Third Army, was to Rennes, at the base of Brittany. They saw the Germans under siege at St Malo, which would surrender a few days later. Bruce moved inland to Le Mans, which had fallen on 9 August but was already a backwater, such was the speed of the Allied advance. He encountered one of the Sussex agents, as well as several operatives SI/London had positioned to infiltrate German lines. By 20 August the OSS at Le Mans were expecting Wild Bill Donovan's arrival – he wanted to be on the scene too. The US V Corps took Chartres on 17 August – and next day Colonel Bruce decided to move there. Now the OSS had reached the Paris region and it was not long before Bruce decided to make his way there.

With two OSS aides Colonel Bruce drove to Rambouillet on 20 August. It became his launch pad for Paris, and a focal point for British and French operatives too. Bruce spent several days there. Soon the Rambouillet area swarmed with soldiers of the French division. On 24 August Bruce followed a column of the French 2nd Armoured toward Paris. One of his aides, Lieutenant John Mowinckel – a Donovan favourite – split off to make a separate sally. Mowinckel encountered no opposition, briefly visited the headquarters of the German commander, General Dietrich von Choltitz, and ended up at a convent the British Secret Intelligence Service had chosen for its Paris command post.

There is a famous story about how writer Ernest Hemingway "liberated" the bar at the Hotel Ritz. "Papa" Hemingway had lived in Paris as a young man, and another author, F Scott Fitzgerald, introduced him to the Ritz. Hemingway, right now, had become a war correspondent barrelling across France with his own entourage and a group of partisans. Colonel Bruce found Hemingway at Rambouillet. Papa, fixing to march on the Ritz, went with Bruce. Every house was decorated with flags, every village road lined with people. It was impossible to refuse the drinks being thrust at them everywhere. Bruce wrote that during the afternoon of 24 August they had beer, cider, white and red Bordeaux, white and red Burgundy, champagne, rum, whiskey, cognac, Armagnac, and Calvados – and that was before they got to Paris.

The Bruce-Hemingway troupe entered from the western side the next morning. They halted at several places for suspected German snipers, and at others for celebrations, always marked with champagne. Late that day the troupe reached the Hotel Ritz. According to legend, Hemingway burst in to proclaim it liberated, only to be stopped by the manager, longtime friend Claude Auzello, who said Papa could not enter the hotel with a gun. Hemingway stashed the gun, went to the Ritz bar, and demanded 51 martinis. OSS chief Bruce recorded, "We ordered the martinis – not very good because the bartender had left – but the dinner was superb and Bruce arranged for everyone to stay at the Ritz." This OSS campaign ended in a very French way.

John Prados is an historian based in Washington, DC, and a senior fellow of the National Security Archive. He is the author of *Normandy Crucible: The Decisive Battle That Shaped World War Ii In Europe* (Published by Penguin-Random House and Amberley Publishing).



Images, Alamy, Getty

HOW THE COLD WAR WAS FOUGHT

Forget open warfare and traditional combat, the Cold War was underhand, manipulative and competitive – yet just as dangerous as any major conflict

The May Day Parade in Moscow's Red Square was just one of many occasions that the Soviet Union used to project its military power

When thinking of a war, most tend to conjure up images of tanks rolling across fields and of gunshots being fired between warring enemies. You can often identify clear sides and see the movement of troops and the territorial gains that they make. This was very much evident during the World War II when the Allies, including Great Britain, the US and Russia, fought on the same side against the Axis powers.

But what followed was very different indeed. A deep and long-running distrust between the US and Russia ended up sparking a new, modern type of conflict. Only this time it was fought indirectly and on more fronts and with more tactics than just armed combat as the various leaders of the countries involved found many different ways to flex their muscle.

Like two squabbling children arguing over whose things are better, both sides would antagonise each other, albeit through espionage, propaganda, economic aid, the build-up of arms and the formation of military coalitions. Neither side missed an opportunity to showcase their supposed superiority in every way possible and they were steadfast in their belief that the ideological paths they had chosen were very much the right ones.

The result was a global superpower stand-off that at various points took the world to the brink of total annihilation. That such a thing did not happen was because both sides were primarily focused on defence, strength and threat: defence of their own way of life, strength in the hope that they would win a war should it come to it, and threat to show that any attempts to agitate would be futile and almost certainly backfire.

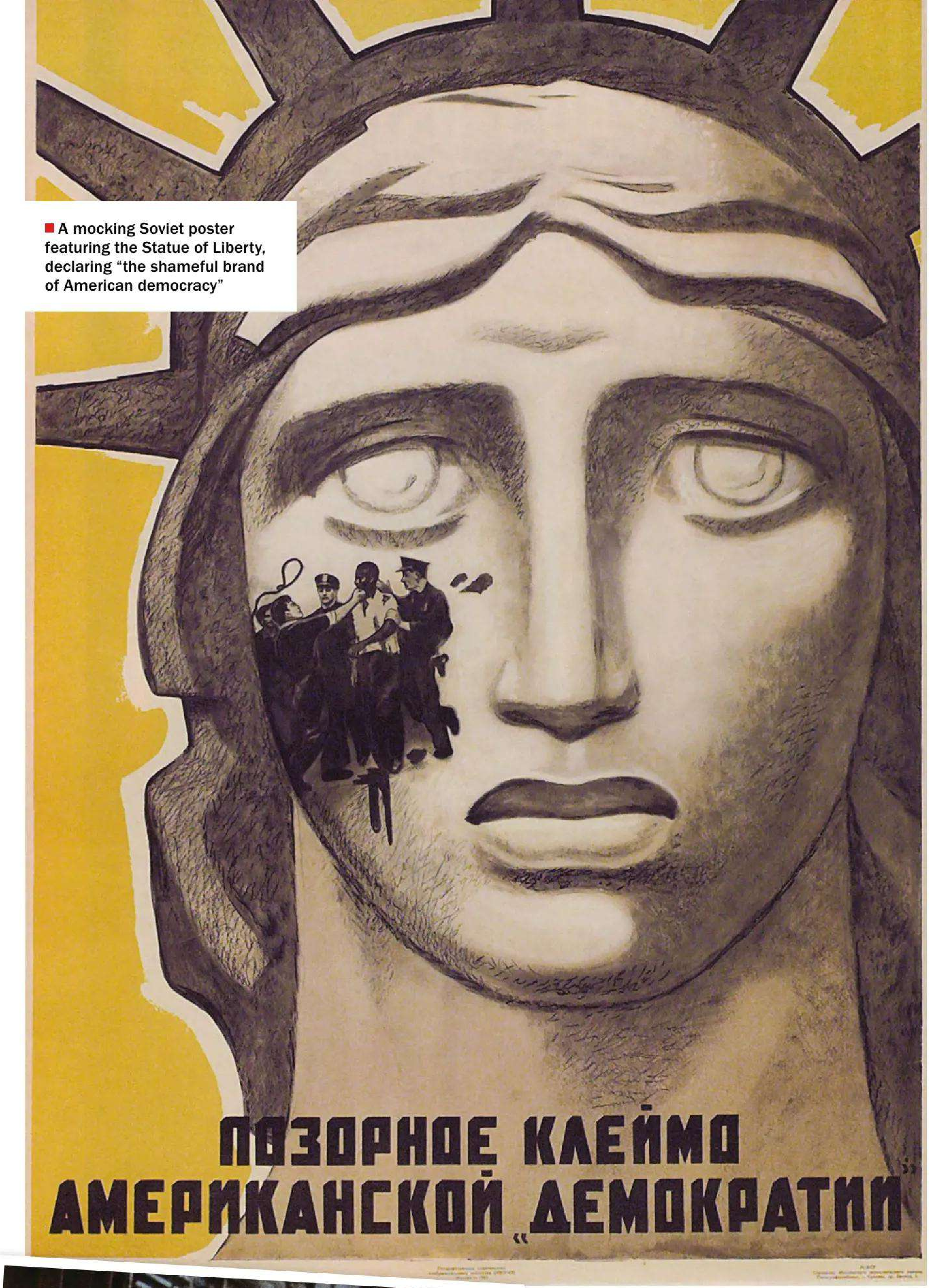
As such, it was a dangerous yet surprisingly contained rivalry that eventually divided East and West and froze it in such a way for decades. It spread across the world where it became symbolised by the construction of the Berlin Wall – a clear demarcation of them and us for both sides. Here we look at the ways in which the conflict manifested itself.

ДА ЗДРАВСТ ЕТ
1 МАЯ
ДЕНЬ

"THE RESULT WAS A GLOBAL SUPERPOWER STAND-OFF THAT AT VARIOUS POINTS TOOK THE WORLD TO THE BRINK OF TOTAL ANNIHILATION"

PEDDLING PROPAGANDA TO THE MASSES

Both the US and USSR used a wide variety of propaganda techniques to infiltrate the minds of citizens everywhere to protect their ideologies



A mocking Soviet poster featuring the Statue of Liberty, declaring "the shameful brand of American democracy"

Since the battle between the US and USSR was built upon differing ideologies, both sides were keen to present the other in the worst possible light. They pushed their relevant agendas in a wide number of ways and looked to make themselves appear stronger and victorious, using propaganda as the key weapon in their attempts to gain the upper hand.

In all cases, the messages were clear. The Americans claimed the Soviets were ignorant of human rights and were following an evil social system that put citizens at the heel of tyrant communist dictators. The Soviets pushed an omnipresent anti-capitalist ideology that criticised the West as cash-obsessed and inferior, where the workers were enslaved and great injustice was prevalent.

Huge amounts of money were poured into creating and promoting the exaggerated statements that were being pumped out daily. The CIA estimated that the Soviet propaganda budget was as high as $4 billion in the 1980s but the Americans also spent many millions as they sought to influence the masses with anti-communist sentiment.

It appeared especially important for propaganda to pervade popular culture. Comics were published by the US government to drive its message home: *Korea My Home*, for instance, stressed the reasons why the US troops were needed in the battle against the evil ambitions of the communist Korean People's Army. There was also an attempt to revive Captain America, a superhero so successful in the propaganda battle of World War II.

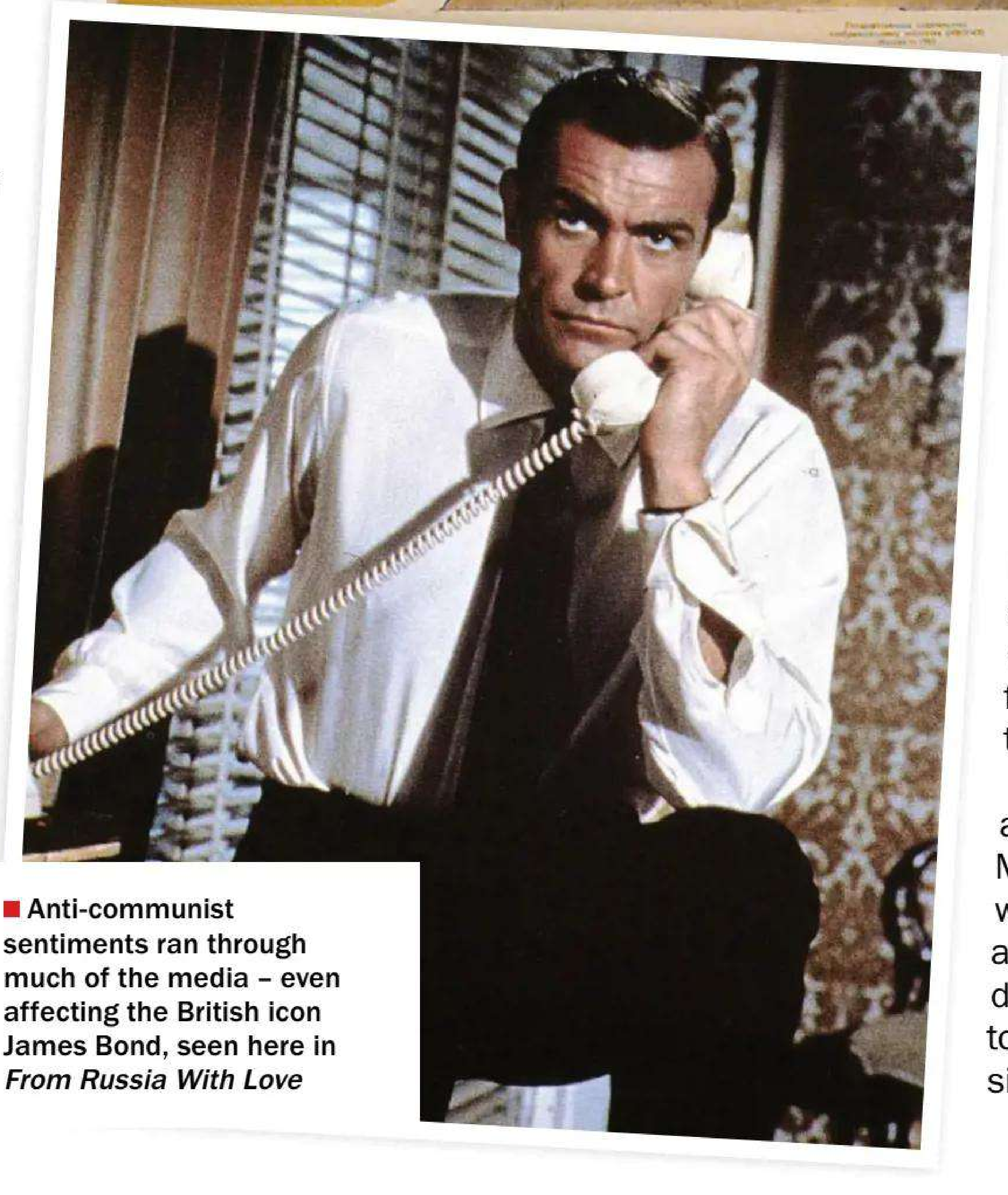
The Americans used film, music, literature and television too. An early example, *Make Mine Freedom*, was a blatant Cold War-era propaganda animation that laid on the humour to diminish communism and raise the status of capitalism. But then barely a radio or television series could pass by listeners and viewers in the 1950s without the drip-feed of how well the USA and its nuclear families were performing together as a society. Even James Bond was a weapon in this war, Ian Fleming having created the iconic character as a "Commie basher".

Not that higher culture was immune from the propagandists. The CIA was widely yet secretly supportive of American Abstract Expressionist painters, even those who were ex-communists. It was desperate to portray the cultural power of the US and show how creative and intellectually free its citizens were against the straitjacketed Soviets.

This extended to distributing anti-communist literature in businesses, schools and public places, and funding persuasive radio stations such as Voice of America, which was broadcast behind the Iron Curtain from 1947 as a way of countering Soviet propaganda.

It was deemed necessary because the Russian state had control of the media including stations such as Radio Moscow, television channels and cinema (upon which the Central United Film Studios and the Committee on Cinema Affairs exerted a tight grip). It was illegal to disagree with USSR doctrine and the US feared mass brainwashing since Soviet propaganda was as much about controlling its citizens and ensuring other communist states remained faithful to the ideology as it was about beating the Americans.

Those who refused to toe the line were arrested, tortured, imprisoned and executed. Meanwhile, posters would promote a happy way of life using strong Russian iconography and simple, easily digestible messages that didn't even need a command of the language to understand. Unthinking loyalty – for both sides – was crucial.



Anti-communist sentiments ran through much of the media – even affecting the British icon James Bond, seen here in *From Russia With Love*

INFILTRATING ENEMY INSTITUTIONS

ESPIONAGE WAS RIFE AS THE COMMUNISTS AND CAPITALISTS TRIED TO GATHER AS MUCH INTELLIGENCE ON THE OPPOSITION AS THEY POSSIBLY COULD

Two government organisations stand out most starkly during the Cold War: the American CIA and the Soviet KGB. With their network of spies across the world and a great thirst for gathering intelligence, they each hoped to discover what the other side was up to and get a grip on their military prowess. As such, knowledge was indeed power and there were numerous flashpoints along the way.

The CIA was born on 18 September 1947 following the passing of the National Security Act that year. It succeeded the Office of Strategic Services that had been formed by President Franklin D Roosevelt after Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. When World War II ended, Roosevelt's successor, Harry Truman, felt the US needed a co-ordinated intelligence system that could match those of the British Empire and Russia.

But as well as gathering intelligence, the CIA was given the power to perform "other functions and duties related to intelligence affecting the national security." Using a huge cash reserve that it had partly built up by taking a small percentage of money from the Marshall Plan, it paid émigrés to deliver intelligence on Soviet plans and it funded anti-communist labour, student and intellectual organisations, each of which were hidden behind fronts so as not give away the identify of their backer. They were able to feed information back on potential Russian plans.

Yet the Russians were astute and recruiting just as heavily, and it not only led to a proliferation of spies but double agents too. The Soviets were the first to send spies, without agency cover, to operate in the US and on the soil of its NATO allies. One such case involved Gordon Lonsdale, who masterminded the Portland Spy Ring in the UK in the late 1950s. He was unveiled as the Soviet intelligence officer Konon Molody while Peter Kroger, of the same ring, was actually Moris Cohen, an American citizen who was carrying out espionage for the Soviets with his wife, Helen Kroger, aka Leontine Cohen.

Arrested along with British-born Harry Houghton – a spy for the People's Republic of Poland and the USSR – and his lover Ethel Gee, they had been gathering intelligence on UK operations and yet they were typical of spies: able to blend into the background and take on unassuming jobs. But they were merely among many others handing information to the Soviets.

The Cambridge Five worked their way into the British Establishment and atomic spies were situated in the US, Britain and Canada, illicitly dishing out information about the production of nuclear weapons and designs to the USSR. It worked both ways, though – the CIA recruited thousands of foreign agents sympathetic to the West to send information back and they also broadcast anti-communist sentiments on Radio Free Europe from 1949.

There were some farcical situations, though. The CIA supported a Polish resistance group called the Freedom and Independence movement but had no idea that the Soviets had broken it up in 1947 and yet continued to allow the Americans to think it still existed. The CIA's spies were also convinced North Korea's Kim Il-sung would not attack the south – which he did with Russian and Chinese backing. It also had to admit that it was operating surveillance missions over the USSR in 1960 when a Soviet surface-to-air missile shot down a U-2 spy plane.

66696
U.S. AIR FORCE

U-2 reconnaissance planes would fly over Soviet positions in a bid to spy on the US's rivals

"THE SOVIETS WERE THE FIRST TO SEND SPIES, WITHOUT AGENCY COVER, TO OPERATE IN THE US AND ITS NATO ALLIES"

STOCKPILING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Both sides looked to manufacture and stockpile nuclear weapons, causing the world to hold its breath

The starting pistol for the nuclear arms race was fired by the United States of America during World War II when it carried out its first successful nuclear weapon test in July 1945 and followed it up a month later with the dropping of two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Such was the devastating effect of the weapons that the newly-formed United Nations held discussions about their future use. But six months later, the US investigated the effect of nuclear weapons on warships while the Soviets got on with creating their own atomic bombs, having found a rich source of uranium in Eastern Europe.

The Soviets exploded their first nuclear weapon on 29 August 1949, greatly surprising the US. But it was the development of the hydrogen bomb that saw the race heat up: the US detonated its first in 1952 followed by the Soviets the following year. Further tests were carried out throughout the decade and the US introduced the B-52 bomber.

Both sides looked to amass firepower. The Russians went down the route of quantity while the US sought fewer missiles but of better quality. Intercontinental ballistic missiles were seen as essential in being able to launch long-range strikes, and the launch of the Russian Sputnik satellite raised fears in the US that the Soviets could reach across the world.

The arms race was as much about deterrent though: Mutually Assured Destruction (also known as MAD) ensured there was no doubt that an attack would lead to a wipeout of the world. Even so, Russia stepped up its efforts in the 1960s while the US was scaling back. By then, there had been some heart-in-mouth moments, not least the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 in which the Soviets had sought to place nuclear ballistic missiles on Cuban soil.

Detente in the 1970s saw agreements to reduce weapons spending, leading to the Partial Test Ban Treaty, but the USA stepped up the race in the 1980s with talk of the so-called Star Wars programme that would create space and Earth-based laser systems. A nervous Russia began to pull back, and by the end of the decade with the fall of the USSR, the race was over.

Viktor Lukyanov, chief of the Kapustin Yar Nuclear Museum, shows a Soviet ballistic warhead used after 1956

A tank-mounted mine roller prepares to clear a highway in Vietnam during the war

FIGHTING IN PROXY WARS

The Cold War rivals battled behind the cover of other countries' conflicts

The USSR and the USA did not wage a direct military war against each other during the period of the Cold War since there was a general worry that going head-to-head would lead to a nuclear holocaust. Instead, the Soviets and the Americans armed other countries or insurgent forces, backing the side that best served their interests at the time.

There were a huge number of proxy wars, with the first being the Korean War that began on 25 June 1950. As 75,000 soldiers from the Soviet-backed North crossed into the US-backed South, it sparked a war between communism and capitalism, with the Americans keen to show strength against what it believed to be the greatest threat to the world.

Arguably the best known proxy war, though, was the one fought in Vietnam for 20 bloody years. The North Vietnamese army was supported by the Soviet Union and China and so was firmly communist, with the South Vietnamese army supported by an anti-communist alliance that included the US and the Philippines. During this period, the Americans also had to contend with the guerrilla organisation the Viet Cong.

Afghanistan was another major front in the Cold War. The Mujahideen, backed by the US, fought against the Soviet Army and the allied Afghan forces. Just as with Vietnam, it preoccupied the USSR for a large number of years – ten in this case – but with dozens more proxy wars being fought in the four corners of the Earth, such conflicts were almost a way of life.

> "THE FLAWED SOFTWARE SPARKED HUGE, COSTLY EXPLOSIONS THAT ENDED UP DESTABILISING THE RUSSIAN ECONOMY"

APPLYING ECONOMIC PRESSURE

ECONOMIC HEALTH WAS HIGHLY PRIZED AND IT WAS USED TO CONTROL AND DOMINATE ALLIES AND RIVALS

Over the course of the Cold War, the US and the USSR were both in a position to furnish their allies with military and economic aid, and this allowed them to exert pressure and influence on what had become two halves of the world. But there were occasions when the sides would exert economic pressure on each other as well: the wars in Vietnam and Afghanistan, for instance, proved costly, and the latter was so financially crippling for the Soviets that it is regarded as one of the main reasons for the eventual collapse of the USSR.

In 1982, however, there was a real – and successful – attempt to damage the Soviet industry by the powers of the West. The CIA had come to possess what was known as the Farewell dossier, which was a list of Soviet agents tasked with stealing and cloning American software in order to build chemical plants, spacecrafts, weapons systems and more. The agency decided it would be a good – if not morally and ethically dubious – idea to feed intelligence officers software that contained deliberate flaws.

It placed a logic bomb within a control system that the Russians used for the Trans-Siberian Pipeline. Since it was coded to reset the pump speeds and valve settings to produce high pressures, the flawed software sparked huge, costly explosions that ended up destabilising the Russian economy by disrupting the money that it could earn from the gas supply.

It's little wonder, then, that the full details of the operation did not emerge until 2004 – had it been known at the time, this act of economic sabotage could have easily escalated into something very severe indeed.

Государственный внутренний выигрышный заем
1982 года
СЕРИЯ №
РАЗРЯД 35
ОБЛИГАЦИЯ №
267147
031
ОБЛИГАЦИЯ НА СУММУ
ПЯТЬДЕСЯТ РУБЛЕЙ
ОБЛИГАЦИЯ №
35 РАЗРЯД
СЕРИЯ №
031
267147
50
СССР

A 50 roubles public bond banknote issued in Russia in 1982 – the year the economy took a nosedive

DEVELOPING CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Much time, money and effort was put into education to create a workforce capable of creating cutting-edge technology

Aside from the amassing of arms, there were bragging rights associated with the advancement of technology in other areas, including in the kitchen. As well as engaging in a mammoth house-building programme in the 1960s, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev sought to fill the small homes with time-saving, eye-catching devices.

He had been ruffled by Vice President Richard Nixon in 1959 during the opening of the American National Exhibition at Sokolniki Park in Moscow, where the US exhibitors had created a large house filled with impressive consumer devices that made life easier for residents. The Americans claimed anyone in the US could afford to buy such a home.

So hoping to mimic the style of a 1950s kitchen with their appliances and bold colours, and raise the standard of living of Soviet citizens – which were rather woeful in comparison – the communists began to convert military factories into toy and domestic appliance manufacturers, creating Western-style radios and modern-looking vacuum cleaners and washing machines.

At the same time, a lot of money was put into education. There was much state-funded research into science and technology, and while this was very much about enhancing the quality of weapons research in the US and the USSR (the US passed the National Defense Education Act in 1958 to provide millions in educational funding), it had an impact on biomedicine, computer science, ecology, meteorology and even agriculture.

Indeed, the Cold War era was a period of technical innovation that was hallmarked to a large extent in the Space Race, during which the US and USSR fought hard to develop technology that would allow them to achieve many space firsts, thereby showing off the benefits of their respective ideologies in the advancement of the human race.

Richard Nixon and Nikita Khrushchev clash at the American National Exhibition in what has become known as the Kitchen Debate

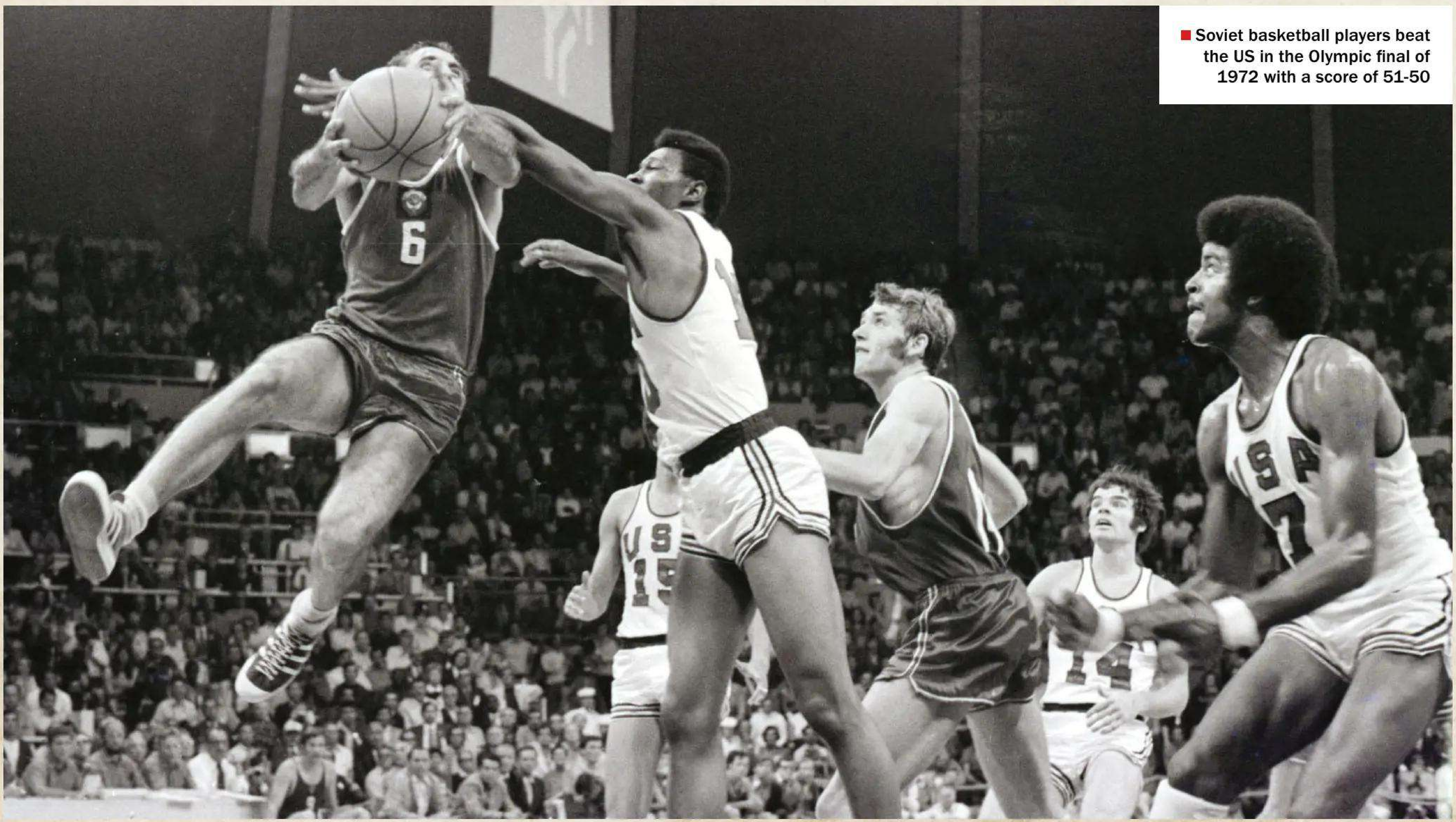
ESTABLISHING SPORTING SUPREMACY

THE RIVALS SAW SPORT AS ANOTHER GOOD TEST OF HOW WELL THEIR NATIONS WERE PERFORMING

Sport proved to be a way in which countries could show the physical strength and health of their populations, and it figured highly in the point-scoring era of the Cold War. In 1966, there were rumours that top athletes competing in the European Track and Field Championships in Hungary were men disguised as women. In 1972, the Soviet Union ended up facing the United States in the basketball final of the Munich Olympics – and even though the US were strong favourites to win, they ended up losing by just one point, with a score of 51-50.

That's only half the story, though. The Americans believed they had won 50-49 with three seconds left. But with a second to go, Renato Jones, the co-founder of the international basketball federation FIBA (and who had been visited ten weeks earlier by Soviet chief of the basketball office Nikolai Beshkarev) added another two seconds to the clock. It gave the Soviets two chances to score, which they took. The Americans refused to accept their silver medals and it caused a furore that continues to rankle to this day.

In 1980, the United States finally had a chance to take revenge when it met the Soviets in a Winter Olympics hockey game and beat them 4-3 against all the odds and went on to achieve gold. It then compounded the USSR's misery by leading a boycott of the Moscow Summer Olympics and pressured dozens of others to do the same. This was in response to the Soviet's refusal to withdraw troops from Afghanistan. The Soviet Union boycotted the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles in return.



Soviet basketball players beat the US in the Olympic final of 1972 with a score of 51-50

THE CIA VERSUS COMMUNISM

Inside Operation Condor: the deadly US-backed programme to purge South America of the red menace

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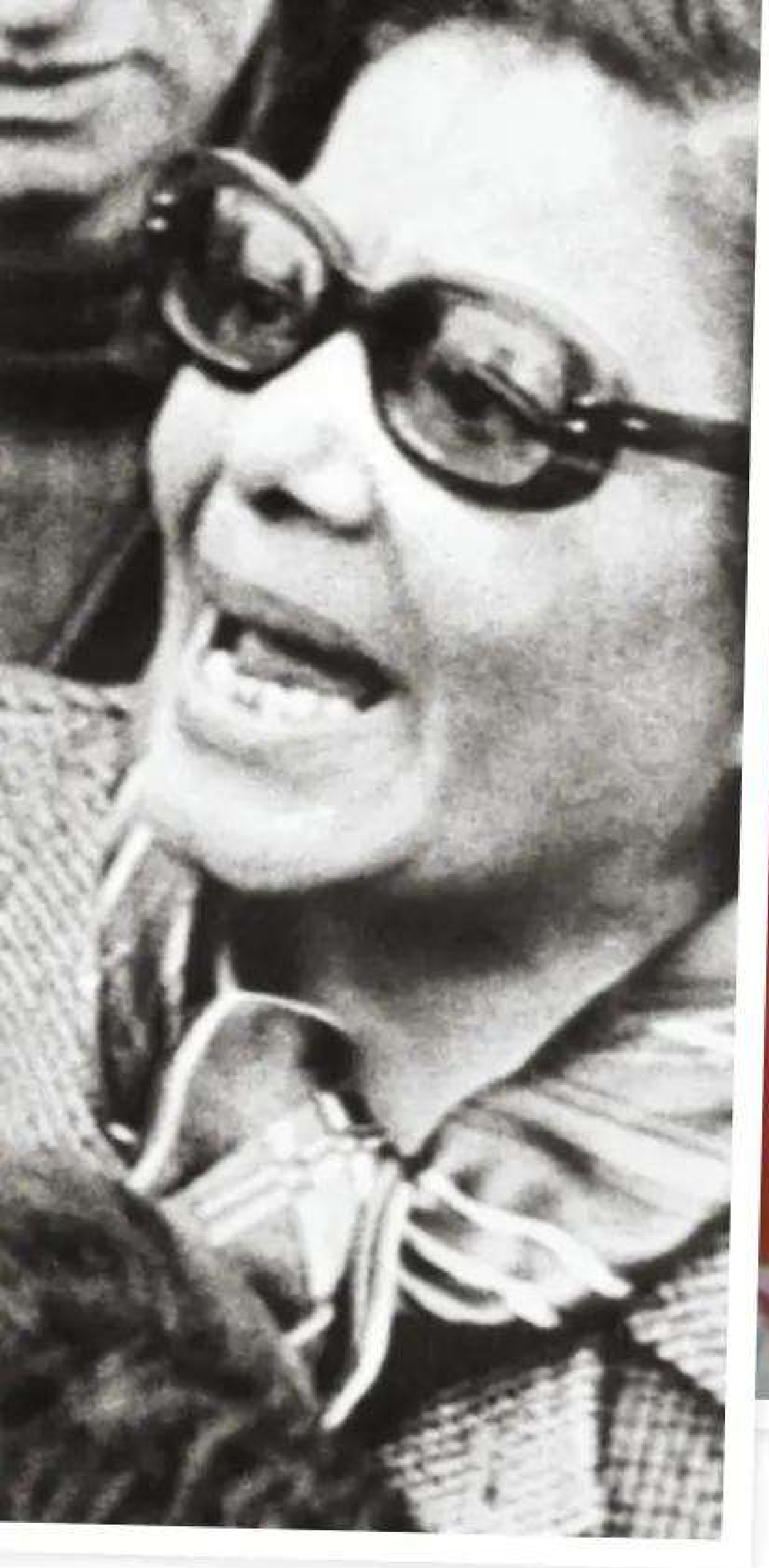
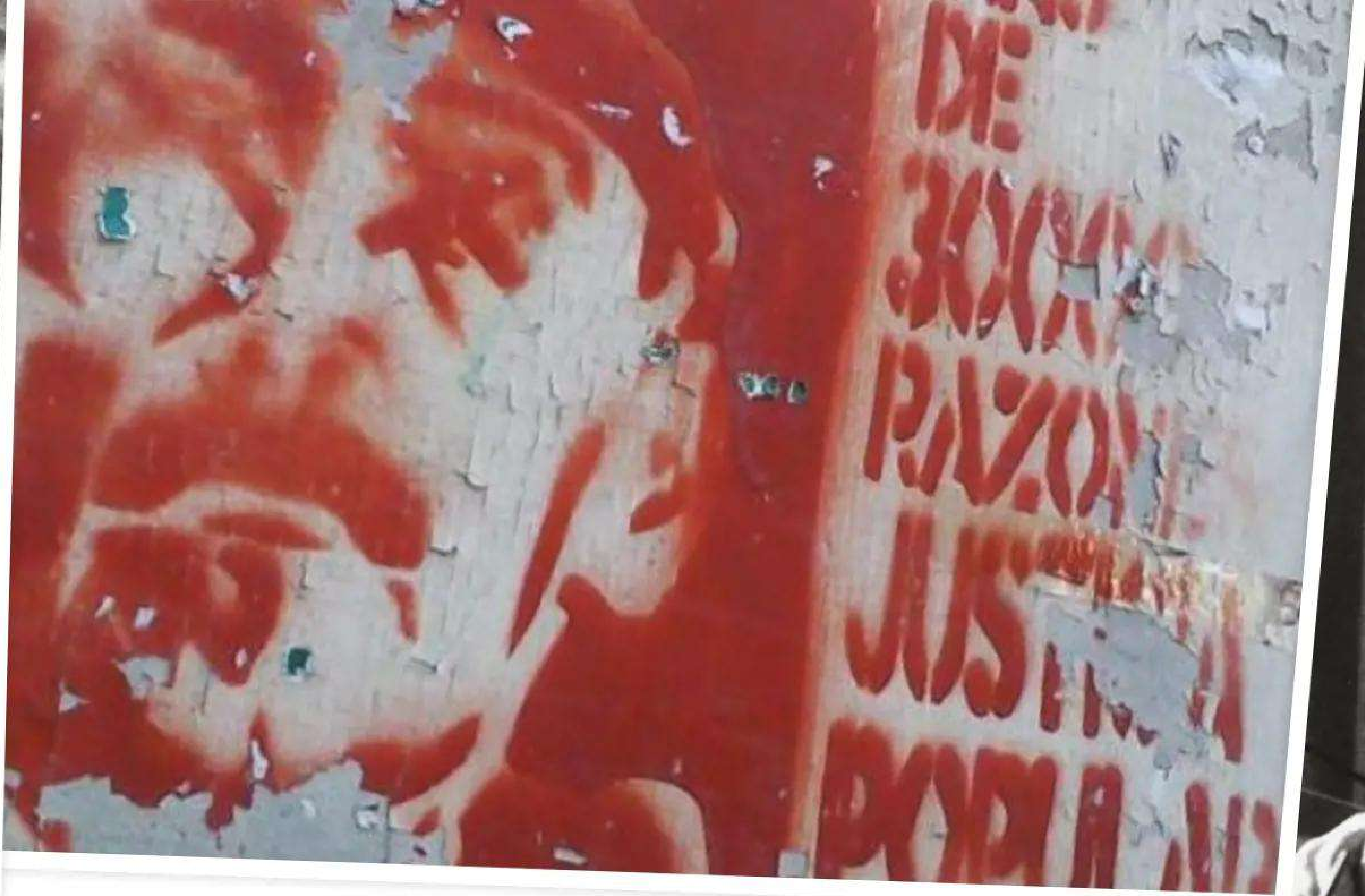
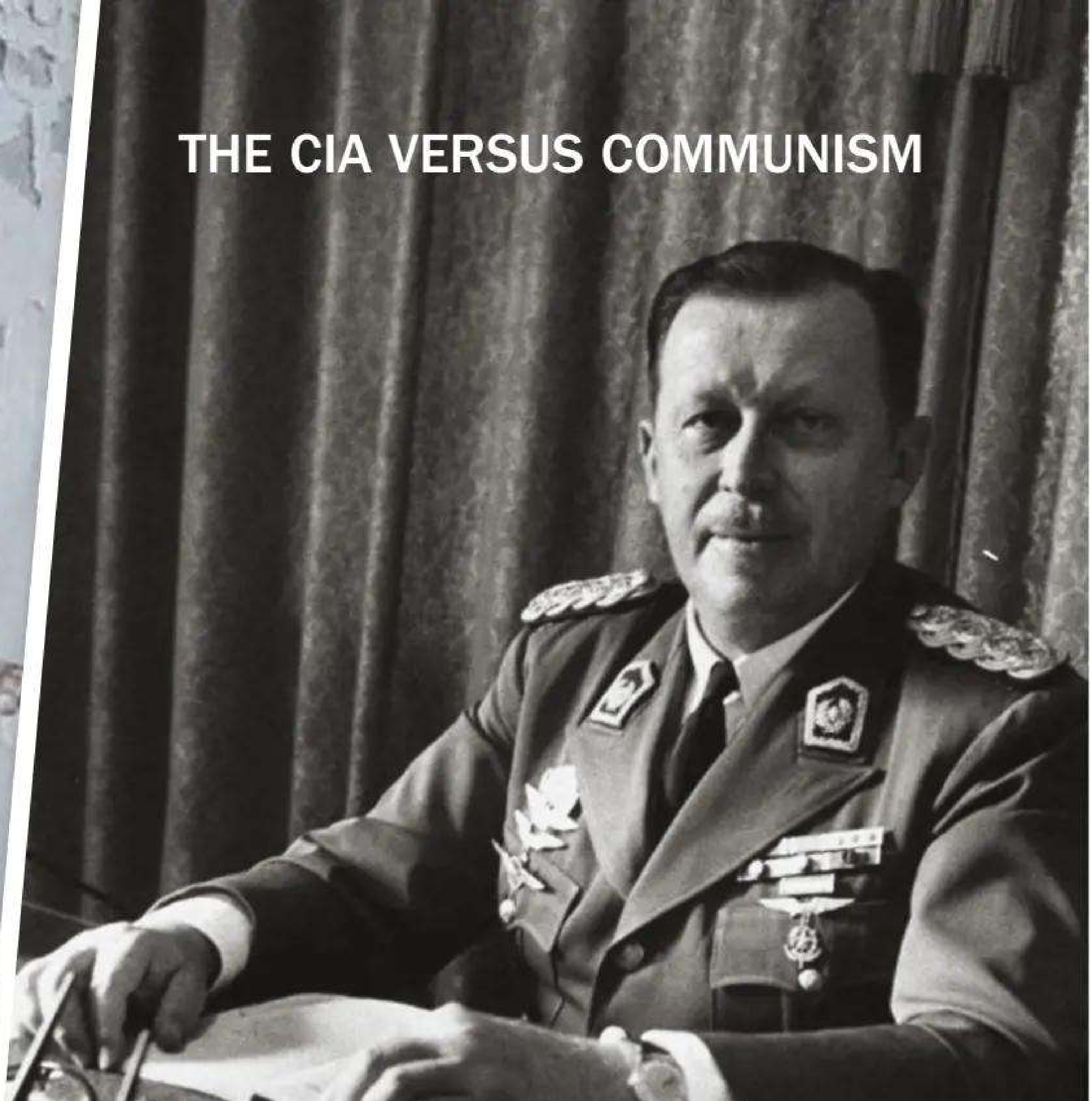
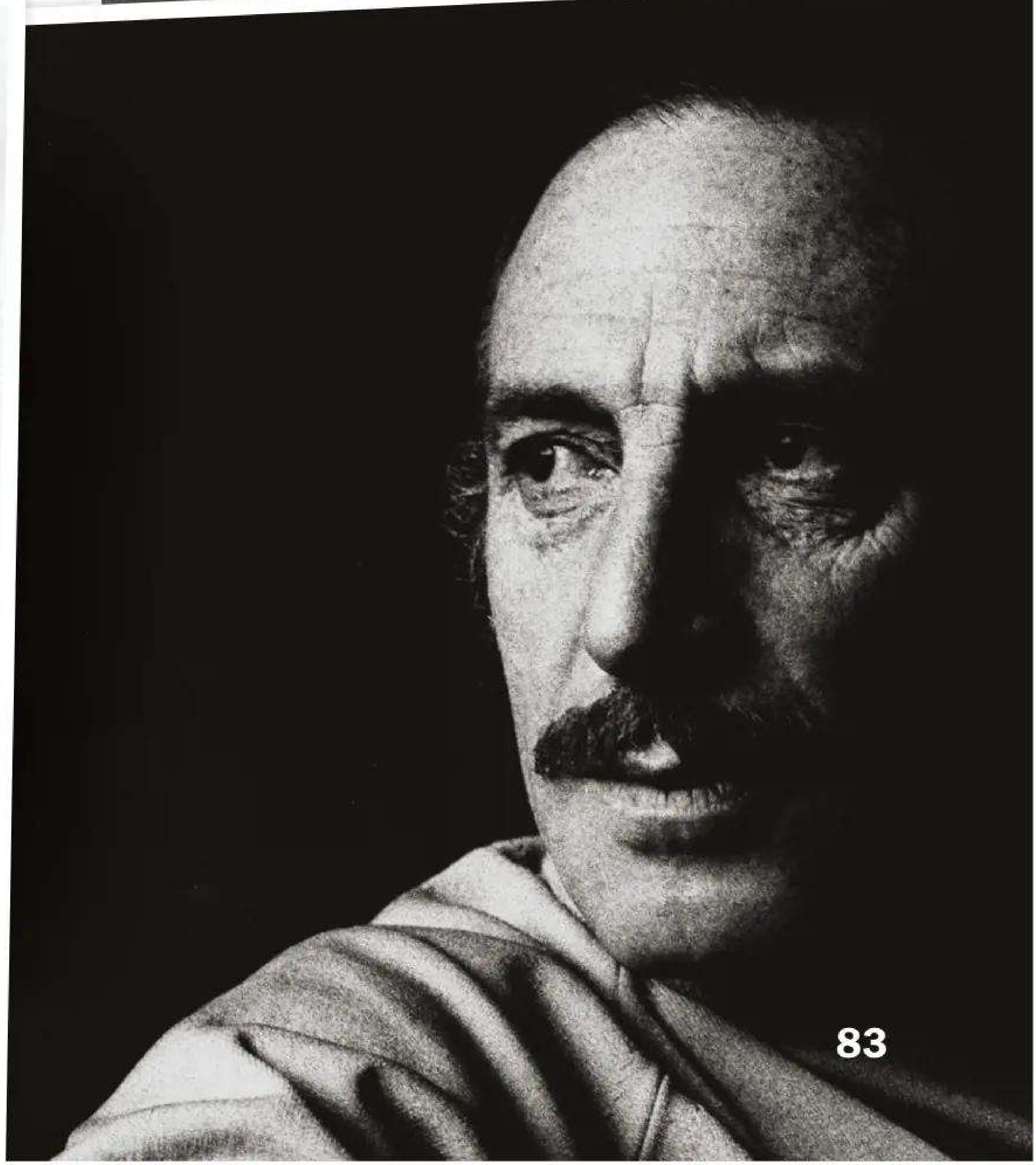






In the 1970s and 1980s, most of South America was a dangerous place to be for those that leaned towards the left of the political spectrum. Anyone who was regarded as an intellectual, or acted as a union leader – in fact, anyone in a position to rally people to their side and challenge the political parties of certain states was a target. With much of the power on the continent held by military dictators, dissidents were suppressed with the threat of torture and death. These regimes shared common political opponents, so, in 1974, the heads of the intelligence agencies of Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia met with the leader of Chile's secret police, Manuel Contreras, to draw up a plan: Operation Condor.

Named after the world's largest carrion bird, Condor was officially a mandate that allowed each country to target political exiles and armed groups across their borders, but it ultimately extended to families and friends of dissidents, political activists, teachers and more. Thousands were kidnapped, tortured and murdered – and behind the scenes was the US Central Intelligence Agency, providing financial, covert and even military support for the regimes of Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet and his allies. The CIA's goal was to subvert communism in South America at all costs and gain leverage for US business interests where it could, even if that meant the tacit support of military juntas, and the oppression and murder of innocent people.



TOP AGENTS

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Based in Uruguay, Cantrell was a CIA officer partly responsible for setting up Dirección Nacional de Información e Inteligeyncia (DNII) and supplying it with instruments that could be used for torture. It was from the DNII that Uruguay's right-wing government ran operations against the Tupamaros guerillas, as well as death squads.

AGENT: CANTRELL, WILLIAM
SECURITY CLEARANCE: LEVEL 5

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Kissinger served as national security adviser under President Nixon and as secretary of state for both Nixon and President Ford. He advised the White House in dealing with pro-communist Chilean leader Salvador Allende and was instrumental in the CIA's support of the overthrow of Allende, replacing him with Pinochet.

AGENT: KISSINGER, HENRY
SECURITY CLEARANCE: LEVEL 5

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Mitrione was a US government adviser for the CIA in South America. He was also a torturer and murderer. Mitrione wasn't the first to establish the practice of electric shocks or psychological torture of political prisoners, but he did bring methodology to it. He was ultimately captured by Uruguayan guerillas, the Tupamaros, interrogated and killed.

AGENT: MITRIONE, DAN
SECURITY CLEARANCE: LEVEL 5

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Noriega worked closely with the CIA from the late 1950s, providing the agency with vital intelligence as a high-ranking Panamanian military officer and eventually becoming a paid asset. The US ignored the fact that he was trafficking cocaine across Panama for Pablo Escobar's Medellin cartel, and allowed him to become military dictator of Panama.

AGENT: NORIEGA, MANUEL
SECURITY CLEARANCE: LEVEL 5

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

With financial backing and support from the CIA, in 1971 General Banzer succeeded in his second attempt to overthrow the left-leaning government in Bolivia. He banned all other political parties and established himself as Bolivia's dictator. Deposed in 1978, he formed his own political party and legitimately became president of Bolivia in 1997.

AGENT: BANZER, GENERAL HUGO
SECURITY CLEARANCE: LEVEL 5

Orlando Letelier – Chilean ambassador to the United States, member of the Chilean Socialist Party and concentration camp survivor – was Augusto Pinochet's most powerful and outspoken critic. This made him a prime target, and on 21 September 1976, Chile's secret police – the Dirección de Inteligencia Nacional (DINA) – was emboldened by a covert agreement with high-level US intelligence officials to operate beyond its borders. As Letelier drove through the embassy district in Washington, DC, a plastic bomb hidden underneath his car exploded. The force of the blast went up into the driver's seat, killing Letelier and his US co-worker Ronni Karpen Moffitt, while Moffitt's husband, in the back seat, was injured.

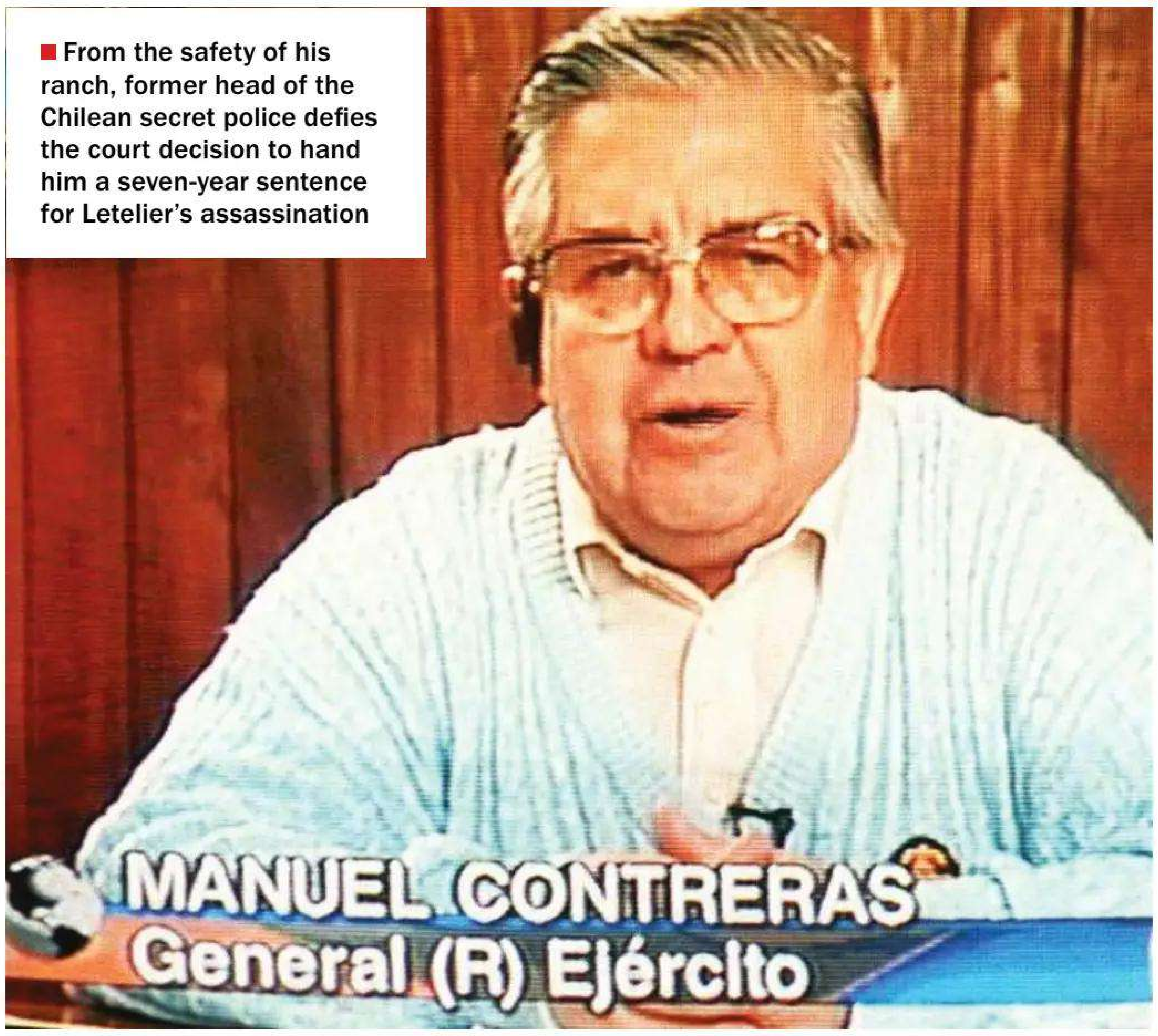
This was neither the first nor the last politically motivated assassination by General Pinochet's regime, but it was the first of its kind on US soil. The hit had been ordered by Pinochet and the perpetrator was professional assassin Michael Townley, a US expatriate working for DINA who led a team of anti-Castro Cuban exiles. There are strong indications that the CIA, though it had no direct involvement in the bombing, knew about the assassination order many weeks in advance. Yet the agency did nothing to try to stop it.

This period in history, known as the Cold War, is characterised by the nuclear arms race between the Soviet Union and the United States, portentous political speeches and tense stand-offs in the streets of Berlin or the waters around Cuba, but like an iceberg, the Cold War had a lot more going on beneath the surface. The CIA took an active role in preserving democracy and stamping out the biggest political bogeyman of the day, communism, but if the former had to be sacrificed in the name of the latter… so be it.

In fact, the USA has a long history of helping to shape the political fates of other countries even before the CIA played its part in the tacit support of Pinochet's regime. In 1946, the School of the Americas was established in the US-run Panama Canal Zone as the Latin American Training Centre – Ground Division, ostensibly to school local brass in the US methods of waging war. In the aftermath of the 1953-9 Cuban Revolution, the school's remit changed dramatically and military figures from across Latin America – some of them future dictators – would go to learn the brutal counter-insurgency techniques that could help the US hold back the Red Tide they saw around every corner.

At around the same time that voices were raised in protest on the streets of Cuba's capital Havana, Guatemala was enjoying the fruits of freedom, having shrugged off dictator Jorge Ubico and the shackles that US business the United Fruit Company imposed on the people in 1946. The new Guatemalan government redistributed land to farmers, gave power to unions and created literacy programmes. President Juan Arévalo's politics were capitalist, but the move away from the political right both alarmed the US and put a huge dent in a business that had profited enormously from slavish labour practices. The CIA recruited dozens of opponents to Arévalo, denounced Guatemala and spread propaganda that the country had been infiltrated by communists. Then in 1954, a CIA-backed invasion by exiled Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas overthrew the government and took power. This was a turning point for the White House: despite international criticism, the

Haitian dictator Papa Doc Duvalier handed the ‘president for life’ title to his son when he died in 1971


MANUEL CONTRERAS
General (R) Ejército

From the safety of his ranch, former head of the Chilean secret police defies the court decision to hand him a seven-year sentence for Letelier’s assassination

> “THE USA HAS A LONG HISTORY OF HELPING TO SHAPE THE POLITICAL FATES OF OTHER COUNTRIES”

CONTRERAS Y ESPINOZA A LA CARCEL
CHILE NECESITA JUSTICI
En Chile para siempre
ORLANDO LETELIER

Chileans stage a peaceful protest in Santiago calling for justice for Orlando Letelier

The US invades Panama during Operation Just Cause, to oust Manuel Noriega – his usefulness had come to an end

> “THE US LEADERSHIP AT THE TIME WAS ABLE TO SHOW HOW IT WAS WINNING THE WAR AGAINST THE REDS”

powerbrowkers in the Capitol were starting to see how the CIA could be used to subvert other nations where diplomatic sweet-talking, aid and rebukes failed. Someone else had made the same observation: Argentinian Ernesto ‘Che’ Guevara, who escaped from Guatemala City and went on to join the Cuban Revolution as Fidel Castro’s right-hand man, travelling to Latin America and Africa as a freewheeling agent of insurrection.

In the two decades leading to the 1974 meeting in Chile, military juntas spread like a virus across the Caribbean and the Cone of South America. In the same year as the Armas coup, General Alfredo Stroessner seized power in Paraguay, then either ensured he was the only candidate in 30 years of elections, or rigged them. Brazilian president João Goulart was overthrown by General Olympio Mourão Filho in 1964, and in 1971, anti-communist General Hugo Banzer wore his political nemesis – President Juan José Torres – down with a series of coups that won him the dictatorship of Bolivia. In Uruguay, President Juan María Bordaberry orchestrated a civic-military coup in June 1973 and General Pinochet took control of Chile three months later.

This apparent domino effect was no coincidence. If the Central Intelligence Agency wasn’t wielding the might of the US budget to directly fund the juntas – supplying them with arms, spreading propaganda or feeding them vital intelligence – then it was keeping a covert eye on the situation as it unfolded and intervening only if it looked like the Reds were in danger of getting the upper hand.

This was certainly the case in Haiti in 1958, where the self-appointed ‘president for life’ François ‘Papa Doc’ Duvalier quelled an uprising with CIA support. Despite reservations about its dictatorial ruler who increasingly styled himself after the Vodou spirit – or loa – of death, Baron Samedi, the proximity of the island to Cuba and Papa Doc’s anti-Castro sentiment meant the US would condone the awful status quo in Haiti as long as it remained a frontline buffer against communism. Duvalier and his successor went on to murder tens of thousands and plunged a once-prosperous country into poverty.

Agent Daniel Mitrione had been operating in Brazil for much of the time between 1960 and 1967, where President João Goulart was doing his best to make sweeping social economic reforms to spread wealth and promote education. As a man with considerable private finances, President Goulart was anti-communist but leaned to the political left. Too far to the left for the liking of US foreign policy adviser Henry Kissinger, who sent teams of psychological warfare agents (Psy-ops) to spread malicious rumours and misinformation about Goulart, softening Brazil up in preparation for a military coup. While the propaganda took hold, the CIA began communicating with senior executive Jack Burford of the Hanna Mining Company, which had stakes in Brazil’s mineral companies. Burford travelled to Brazil for a secret meeting with Goulart – one that would line the Brazilian president’s pockets and profit both the US and Hanna Mining – but Goulart rejected the deal. Thus, President Lyndon Johnson green-lit the coup to overthrow João Goulart and he was exiled by Brazil’s generals under the shadow of a nearby US Navy taskforce.

Mitrione stayed behind to help remove remaining Goulart supporters and assist Brazilian police in the interrogation techniques in which

On the streets of Argentina, the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo still protest about their ‘disappeared’ children

APOYAMOS EL PROYECTO NACIONALY POPULAR

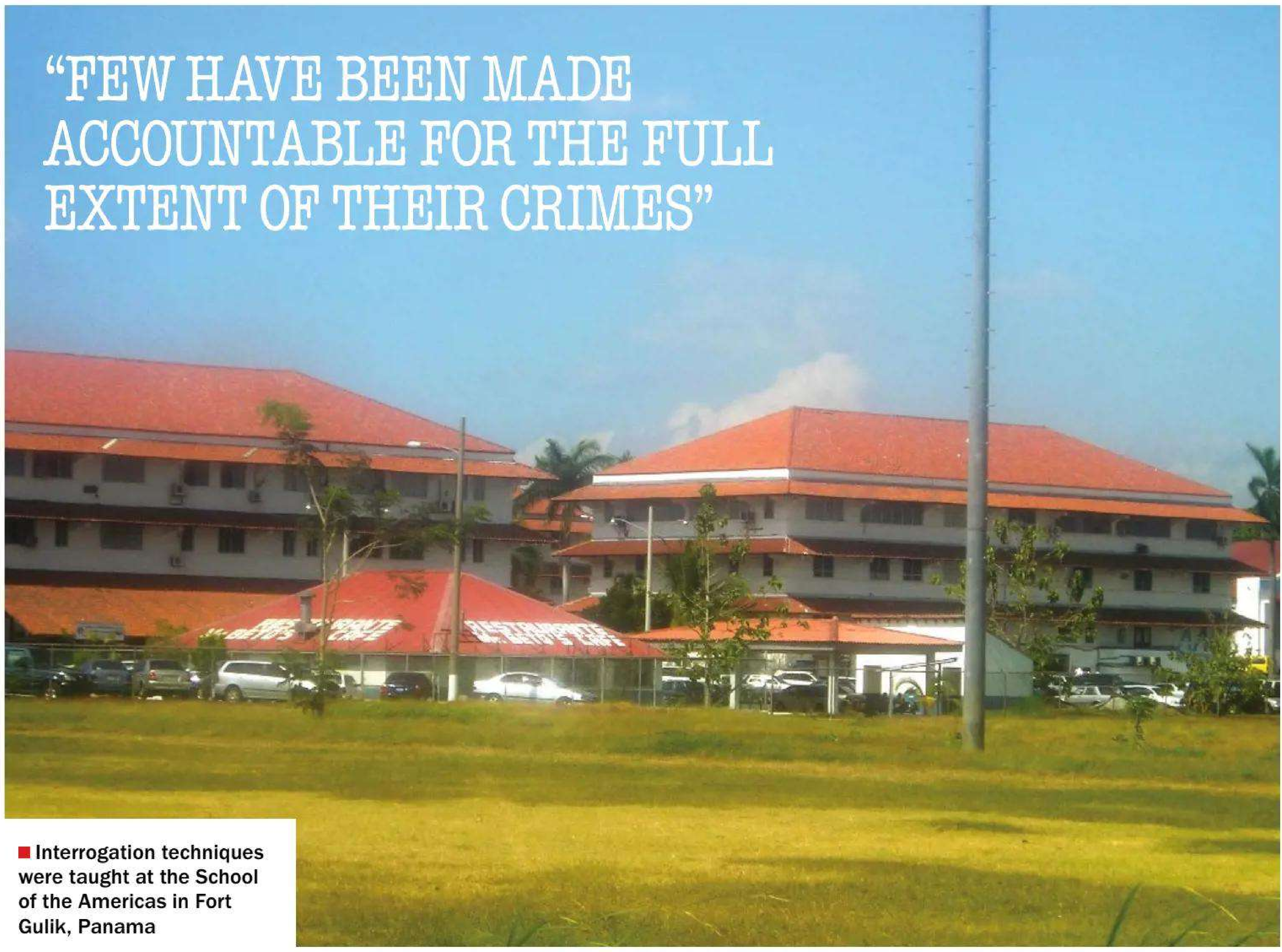
he excelled. He was then sent to Uruguay in 1969, where he honed his skills allegedly torturing beggars that he snatched off the streets, deploying his methods even against pregnant women with the clinical efficiency of a surgeon. Manuel Hevia Cosculluela, a Cuban double agent, worked for the CIA under Mitrione's supervision, often observing him. Cosculluela later wrote about his experiences when he returned to Cuba: "There was no interrogation, only a demonstration of the effects of different voltages on the different parts of the human body, as well as demonstrating the use of a drug, which induces vomiting – I don't know why or what for – and another chemical substance. The four of them died."

Cosculluela also described some of the twisted torture theory that Mitrione discussed with him. First came the 'softening up' phase of beating and insults, no questions asked, followed by relentless beatings. Then the interrogation itself began. "The precise pain, in the precise place, in the precise amount, for the desired effect," was Mitrione's method. "You must always leave him some hope, a distant light… it may be good to prolong the session a little to apply another softening-up," he continued. "Not to extract information now, but only as a political measure, to create a healthy fear of meddling in subversive activities."

The people of Argentina arguably suffered more than any other South American country as a result of Operation Condor, with its death toll peaking at three times Chile's estimated 10,000 murder victims. Even before the Argentinian dictator Jorge Videla took over in 1976 with the support of the CIA and the blessing of US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Videla was waging what was known as the 'Dirty War' against the Argentinian people as a senior military officer. The targets of his death squads included Marxists, left-wing activists and supporters of Argentina's previous – democratically elected – president.

His junta perpetrated a cultural genocide against students, priests, union members, artists and academics, inside concentration camps where Mitrione's horrific methods were practiced daily. Tales of abuse and torture were rife from the surviving victims. In 1979, Videla described the victims as "…not dead or alive… just disappeared," and indeed, many of those who went missing during this time have never been accounted for and are presumed dead.

The CIA had complicity in this 'Dirty War' and Henry Kissinger had been well aware of the Argentinian military's tactics since 1970. By 1976, US Congress had become concerned about the human rights abuses and was



"FEW HAVE BEEN MADE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE FULL EXTENT OF THEIR CRIMES"

Interrogation techniques were taught at the School of the Americas in Fort Gulik, Panama

Military members of the Bolivian junta are sworn in with the support of Brazil and Peru

SCHOOL OF THE DICTATORS

INSIDE THE CIA TRAINING CAMP FOR LATIN AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICERS

The seed of the principles that would guide the Latin American dictatorships of the 1970s would be planted – by the US – in 1946, when the US Army built the School of the Americas at Fort Gulick, Panama. Its motto, "Libertad, Paz y Fraternidad" (Freedom, Peace and Fraternity), was, much like its name, a thinly disguised euphemism for what the School of the Americas actually promoted: anything but communism.

In 1961, as the Cold War amped up, it began to teach anti-communist counter-insurgency to South American military personnel. Some have suggested that in the early years, this included torture methods. Its notorious graduates included Jorge Rafael Videla (Argentinian dictator from 1976-81), Hugo Banzer (Bolivian dictator from 1971-78), Manuel Contreras (head of Chile's secret police from 1973-77) and Manuel Noriega (Panamanian dictator from 1983-89).

The list from Operation Condor's era alone is a long one. All had involvement in the extensive human rights abuses perpetrated by the operation, all have blood on their hands, and yet few have been made accountable for the full extent of their crimes. Curiously, included in the School of the Americas alumni are members of Los Zetas, the powerful and notoriously violent Mexican crime cartel that favours intimidation and brutal assassination over bribery. In this case at the very least, the US clearly shot itself in the foot.

Pictured here in September 1973, General Pinochet was finally stripped of political immunity in 2004, although he died before he could be convicted

Las mamás y los papás de los niños apropiados que las Abuelas buscan desde 1977

A mural of some of the many fathers and mothers who 'disappeared', in the 'House for Identity', Buenos Aires

“THE PEOPLE OF ARGENTINA ARGUABLY SUFFERED MORE THAN ANY OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY”

considering sanctions against Argentina. In a recently declassified transcript, Kissinger sought to reassure the visiting Argentinian foreign minister, Admiral César Augusto Guzzetti, that he had US backing.

“I have an old-fashioned view that friends ought to be supported,” said Kissinger. “What is not understood in the United States is that you have a civil war. We read about human rights problems, but not the context. The quicker you succeed the better… The human rights problem is a growing one… We want a stable situation. We won’t cause you unnecessary difficulties. If you can finish before Congress gets back, the better. Whatever freedoms you could restore would help.”

In 1999, US President Bill Clinton ordered the declassification and release of thousands of documents, confirming that the CIA had intimate knowledge of Operation Condor and even some indirect involvement in the state-sanctioned murders and atrocities committed by Southern Cone juntas. The documents also showed that the CIA and the State Department had the intelligence to prevent the assassination of Orlando Letelier, among others, but allowed it to happen anyway.

Strictly speaking, Operation Condor was a success, for a time. Through a campaign of merciless repression and active elimination of political foes, the juntas of six Latin American countries held communism at bay. The US leadership at the time was able to show how it was winning the war against the Reds and at the same time support US business interests abroad, boosting its economy. But even without pragmatic hindsight, it was clearly unsustainable. The interpretation of a ‘communist’ had gone from far left-wing political activists and urban guerillas opposed to the regime, to people with views that didn’t align with state ideology to friends and families of those people regardless of their political opinions. Pinochet and company were throwing the baby out with the bathwater in order to maintain absolute control.

Inevitably, as international attention focused on the horror unfolding across South America, the CIA pulled funding and support as the US weighed up the risk of being associated with human rights atrocities. By 1989, with the end of Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega’s regime and the fall of the Iron Curtain, Condor came to an end. The CIA brushed another of its sordid engagements under the carpet and, for a while, that’s where it stayed.

CIA CRIMES IN SOUTH AMERICA

THE BLOODY HAND OF OPERATION CONDOR CLAIMED THOUSANDS OF LIVES

Venezuela
Guyana
Suriname
French Guiana
Colombia
Ecuador
Peru
Brazil
Bolivia
Paraguay
Uruguay
Argentina
Chile

Country: **BOLIVIA**
Date of coup: **1971**
Number of disappearances/ deaths: **116-545**

With the backing of the Nixon government and support from Brazil, General Banzer brought Bolivia's garrisons on-side and wrested power from President Juan Torres, who escaped to Argentina and was assassinated by Videla's death squads in 1976.

Country: **CHILE**
Date of coup: **1973**
Number of disappearances/ deaths: **3,000-10,000**

The CIA had no direct involvement in Pinochet's plans to seize power, although its agents did spread anti-Allende propaganda. Its relationship with the general and the mutually beneficial exchange of intelligence meant it was privy to the military plot that worked in its favour.

Country: **ARGENTINA**
Date of coup: **1976**
Number of disappearances/ deaths: **7,000-30,000**

The sixth Argentinian coup d'etat saw the overthrow of President Isabel Martínez de Peron by General Jorge Rafael Videla's military junta. The USA supported the removal of the leftist guerillas via the CIA who could have prevented the coup.

Country: **BRAZIL**
Date of coup: **1964**
Number of disappearances/ deaths: **434-1,000**

President Goulart attempted to stop the Brazilian military coup by a constitutional appeal, even as Gernal Filho's army moved on his position. Goulart soon realised he lacked political support, fled the country and Castelo Branco was soon sworn in.

Country: **PARAGUAY**
Date of coup: **1954**
Number of disappearances/ deaths: **200-400**

General Alfredo Matiauda had sound political instincts, but for a very ignoble cause. He led the coup that usurped President Frederico Chavez's rule, then led the longest reign of the Southern Cone dictatorships: 35 years.

Country: **URUGUAY**
Date of coup: **1973**
Number of disappearances/ deaths: **123-215**

By the time Juan María Bordaberry was deposed as president and a civic-military dictatorship was installed, Uruguay's military had amassed considerable power. It took little for Uruguay's military chiefs to elbow Bordaberry out of office.

Images: Alamy, Getty Images, FreeVectorMaps.com

MYSTERIOUS MISSIONS

Find out about some of the strangest secret operations known, from studies into ESP to assassinations and enduring mysteries

Image: Getty Images

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF COMMANDER CRABB

He was a war hero and Britain's number one diver, but during a secret mission investigating a Russian cruiser, he vanished never to return…

WORDS **CALLUM MCKELVIE**

On 19 April 1956, Lieutenant-Commander Lionel "Buster" Crabb vanished into the murky waters of Portsmouth Harbour, never to return. Crabb was a diver of some renown and had been investigating the Russian cruiser Ordzhonikidze on a secret spy mission for MI6. A hero of World War II, he helped defend British ships at port in Gibraltar from Italian saboteurs and afterwards became a public figure as well as an occasional spy. Then, at the age of 47 he seemingly disappeared off the face of the earth.

The important files pertaining to Crabb's disappearance remain under embargo and their contents top secret until at least 2057. Was he murdered attempting to defect? Captured by Soviet agents? Or was his death simply an accident? Commander Crabb's fateful final dive is just one part of a life story as enigmatic as the circumstances surrounding his disappearance.

A man adrift

Lionel Kenneth Phillip Crabb was born on 28 January 1909 to a poor family in Streatham, south west London. His family's poverty was compounded in 1914 when his father was killed during action in World War I. Lionel was only five years old. As a youth he spent time studying in Brighton, but he seemed to have struggled academically and detested the experience. According to Mike and Jacqui Welham in their book *The Crabb Enigma*, he earned a reputation as the family's 'black sheep', preferring a more outgoing and adventurous lifestyle.

Even at this young age, Crabb had fantasies of a life at sea. He spent three years on the training ship Conway but ran away to the United States where he remained for a short time. By the 1930s he returned to England and it is here that his life becomes difficult to follow. According to the Welhams he had an unhappy experience working as an underwear model, before either jointly running an art studio or at the very least working as a salesman at one. Crabb's natural charm would have made him perfect for such a job, but he was also known as an eccentric. He could often be seen strutting the streets wearing a monocle and carrying a distinctive sword stick with a silver crab-shaped handle.

However, Crabb still harboured a desire to see the world and never stayed in one place long. For a time he lived in China where he first dabbled in the murky world of espionage, spying on Soviet forces for Chinese nationalist leader Chiang Kai-Shek. But back in Europe, war was on the horizon. Crabb returned to England in 1940 only to be rejected from the Royal Navy due to poor eyesight. However, he was able to join up as an underwater bomb disposal officer and, after undergoing training, received his commission in 1941. Within a year Crabb was posted to the place that would make him a hero of the war – Gibraltar.

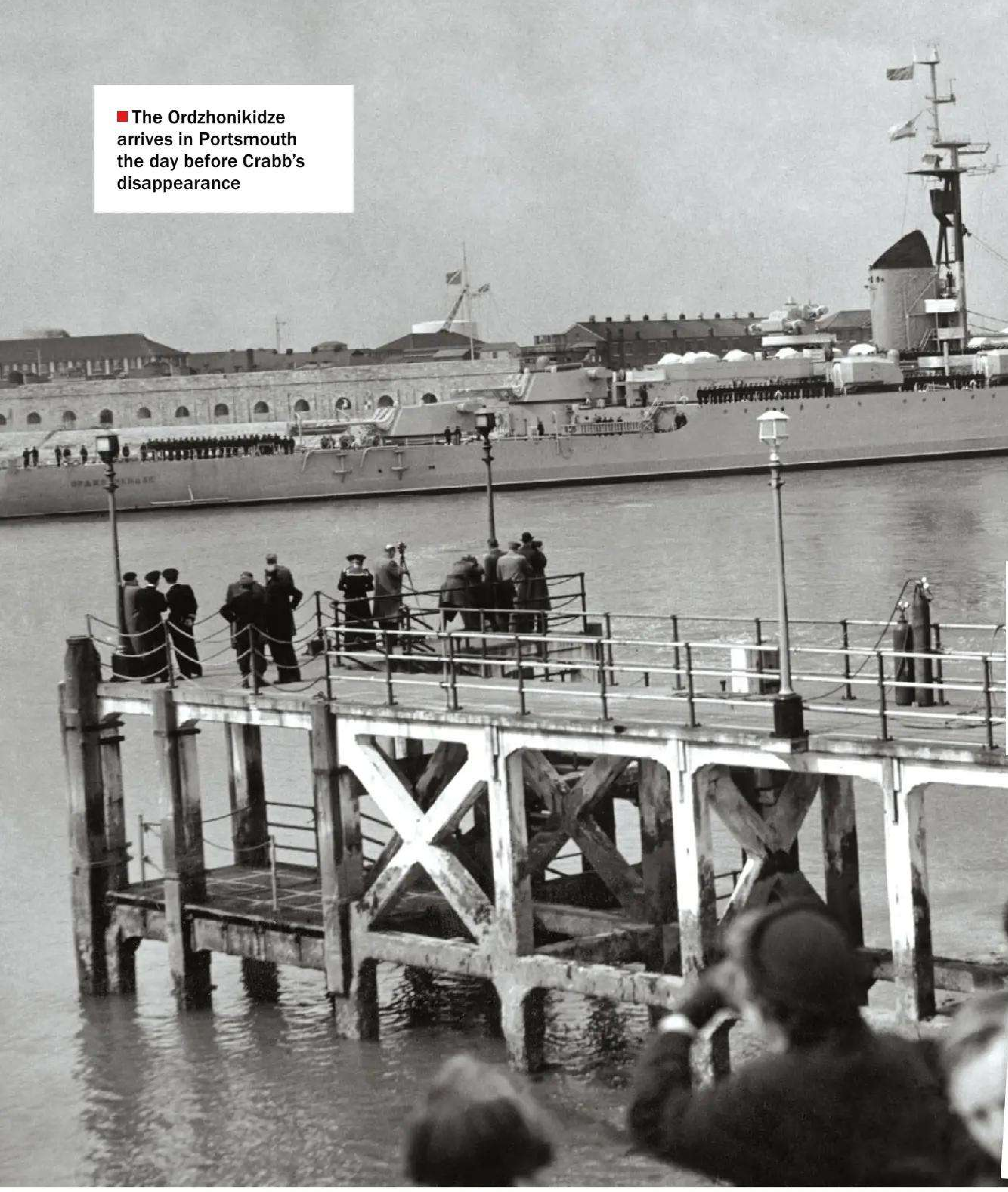
Crabb at war

Located on the south coast of Spain, Gibraltar was the only remaining piece of Allied territory in mainland Europe. During the war Spain was technically neutral but under a fascist regime, it regularly provided covert support to both Nazi Germany and Mussolini's Italy. One problem the British Navy at Gibraltar faced was Italian underwater saboteurs based in the Spanish port of Algeciras. As much of Allied shipping was controlled and organised from Gibraltar, the harbour was an appealing target for the Italian frogmen. They attached limpet mines or manned torpedoes known as Chariots to the hulls of the waiting ships.

The mission of the Underwater Working Party, to which Crabb was attached, was to locate these explosives and neutralise them before they caused loss of life. The divers' gear however was limited. Instead of working with professional equipment, they had to rely on the Davis Submarine Escape Apparatus, which as the name implies was designed for use during emergencies onboard submarines. They had no wetsuits or fins, wearing swimming trunks and sports shoes with weights attached. What was worse, the team designated to retrieve the bombs consisted of only two divers.

Crabb's intended role was to dismantle the bombs once they were brought ashore. However, when he discovered the lack of manpower

> "HE COULD OFTEN BE SEEN STRUTTING THE STREETS WEARING A MONOCLE AND CARRYING A DISTINCTIVE SWORD STICK WITH A SILVER CRAB-SHAPED HANDLE"



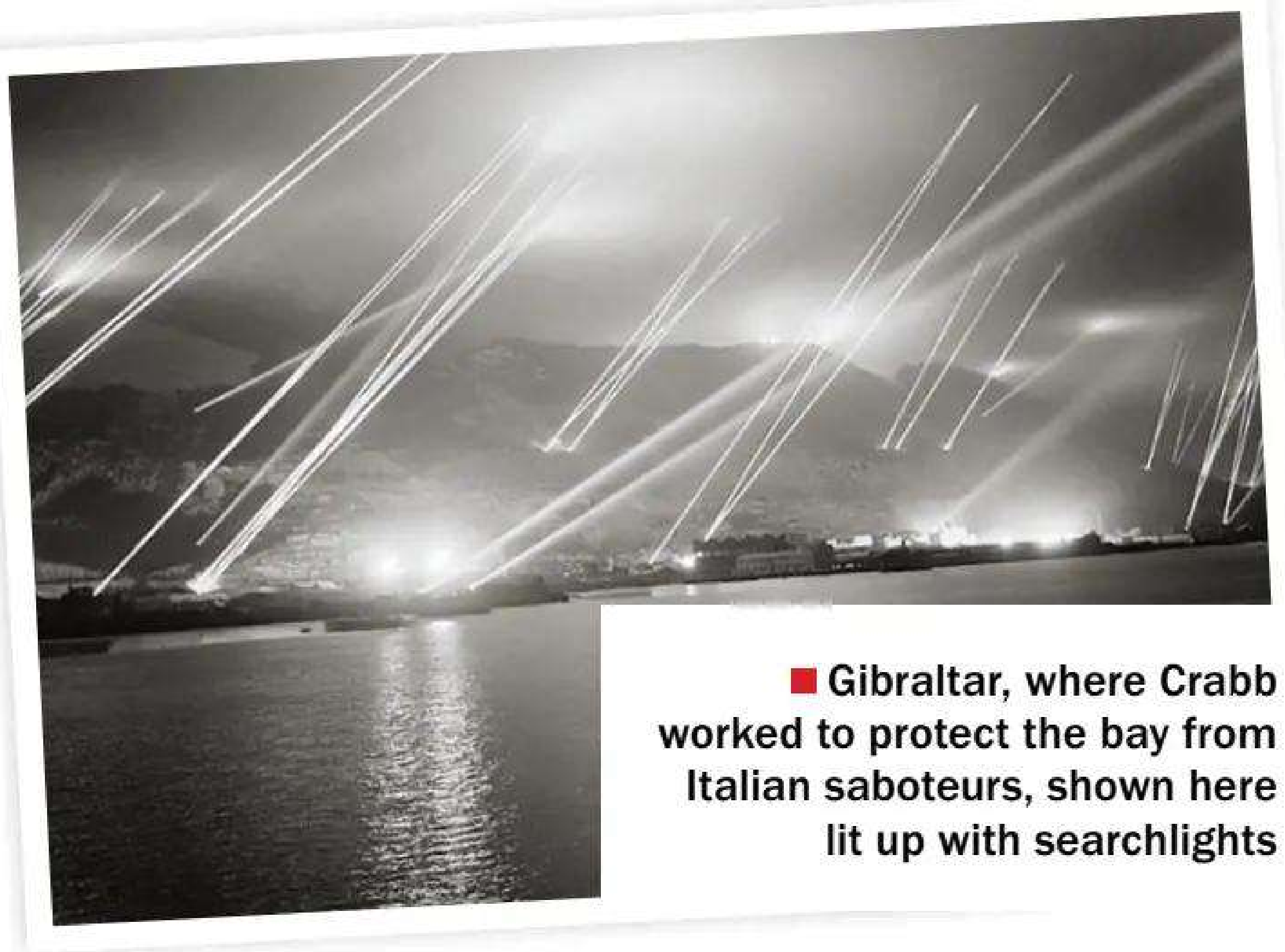
The Ordzhonikidze arrives in Portsmouth the day before Crabb's disappearance

When his work at Gibraltar was completed, Crabb was sent to Livorno and Venice in Italy to help clear the ports of mines and wreckage

afforded to the Underwater Working Party, he realised he too would have to learn to dive. Despite having no prior diving experience, he was purportedly something of a natural. This was all the more miraculous because Crabb was a weak swimmer, barely able to complete three lengths of the average swimming pool.

Although Crabb's team never comprised more than six divers at any one time, they fought valiantly against the attackers. Despite the UWP's war with the Italians being a violent and bloody one, Crabb seems to have genuinely respected the enemy and viewed them as equals. At one point, two Italian divers were killed and their bodies brought to the surface. Crabb made sure they were given a full naval burial at sea. Although seen as a moving gesture by some, it frustrated and angered others. However, alongside the bodies Crabb was also able to recover some useful equipment – including fins, which the British divers were still without.

"THE SECRET INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIS, ALSO KNOWN AS MI6) IMMEDIATELY HATCHED A PLAN TO SEND A DIVER BELOW THE ORDZHONIKIDZE ON A RECONNAISSANCE MISSION"



Gibraltar, where Crabb worked to protect the bay from Italian saboteurs, shown here lit up with searchlights

But Crabb did not spend all his time in Gibraltar fighting off attacks from Italian frogmen. In 1943, the UWP were dispatched to recover the bodies and vital documents from a plane that had crashed shortly after take off. The plane had been carrying the Polish general Władysław Sikorski. His suspicious death has led to theories as to whether the Soviet Union, supposedly distrusting him, sought to have Sikorski liquidated. This is all the more believable due to the then director of British intelligence in Gibraltar being one Kim Philby, later revealed as a Soviet spy and one of the infamous Cambridge Five. But for the moment all focus was on recovering the bodies and the all-important documents. Crabb's mission was an urgent one: not only was there the risk that the tide would interfere with the crash sight, there was the more pressing concern of enemy divers getting there first. Despite the mission's difficulty, Crabb made the UWP dive day and night until all 18 bodies, microfilm and documents, were brought ashore.

Slowly, the Italian attacks became less frequent. According to the Welhams, the work of the Underwater Working Party and Lionel Crabb meant that the bay at Gibraltar was simply too well defended. Finally, on 8 September 1943 any fears of further attacks were abated when the Italian forces surrendered to the Allies. For his work in Gibraltar, Crabb was promoted to the position of Lieutenant Captain and awarded the George Medal. Crabb spent the final years of the war in Venice and Livorno, where he worked to clear the port of wrecks and explosives. He was decommissioned in 1947.

Civilian diver

Crabb returned to civilian life and took a job as a furniture salesman. Yet the underwater world continued to hold a fascination and he regularly worked as a freelance diver. In the 1950s he helped hunt for the wreck of a Spanish galleon off the coast of Tobermory, Scotland enlisting the help of two naval ships. Unfortunately, as Colin Martin and Geoffrey Parker state in their book *The Spanish Armada*, "the operation proved a fiasco that ended in awkward parliamentary questions about why taxpayers' money had been used to sponsor a private treasure hunt."

Crabb was also contacted by the Navy to help with more sombre operations. After the submarine Truculent collided with the Swedish tanker Divinia in the River Thames on 12 January 1950, Crabb participated in the investigatory missions. Similarly, he assisted in another recovery operation four years later when the submarine HMS Affray was lost in the English Channel on 16 April 1951.

But while these very high-profile dives were the ones the public were allowed to read about, Crabb also participated in more clandestine operations. In 1955 he was contacted by the British Intelligence Services and asked to undertake a mission diving beneath the Russian ship, the Sverdlov, which was docked in Portsmouth Harbour. Both the British Navy and the American CIA were interested in why the Sverdlov was so manoeuvrable. The operation was overseen by the CIA and Crabb and Sydney Knowles, a friend from Gibraltar, completed the job successfully. But a year later Crabb would find himself enlisted for another mission into the murky waters of Portsmouth Harbour, one from which he would never return.

Lost at sea

On 18 April 1956, the Soviet leaders Marshal Bulganin and Nikita Khrushchev arrived in Portsmouth for a rare goodwill visit to the UK during a brief relaxing of tensions in the Cold War. Flanked by a pair of warships, their cruiser the Ordzhonikidze greatly interested the British intelligence services. The Secret Intelligence Service (SIS, also known as MI6) immediately hatched a plan to send a diver below the Ordzhonikidze on a reconnaissance mission. But the waters of Portsmouth Harbour were a dangerous place to dive, with little visibility combined with the hazard of ships entering and exiting the busy port. For this job, they needed an experienced man, but who?

Lionel Crabb had recently turned 47. While still a highly respected war hero, in many ways his best years were behind him. His health was poor and he drank and smoked to excess. Nonetheless, perhaps seeking to relive his glory days, Crabb eagerly agreed to the job and arrived at Portsmouth on 17 April. After contacting an ex-colleague from the war to act as a diving partner, the pair carried out a test dive on the 18th. However, Professor Christopher R Moran states

VANISHING ACTS

LIONEL CRABB IS NOT THE ONLY CASE OF AN UNSOLVED DISAPPEARANCE FROM HISTORY, HERE ARE FIVE FAMOUS EXAMPLES

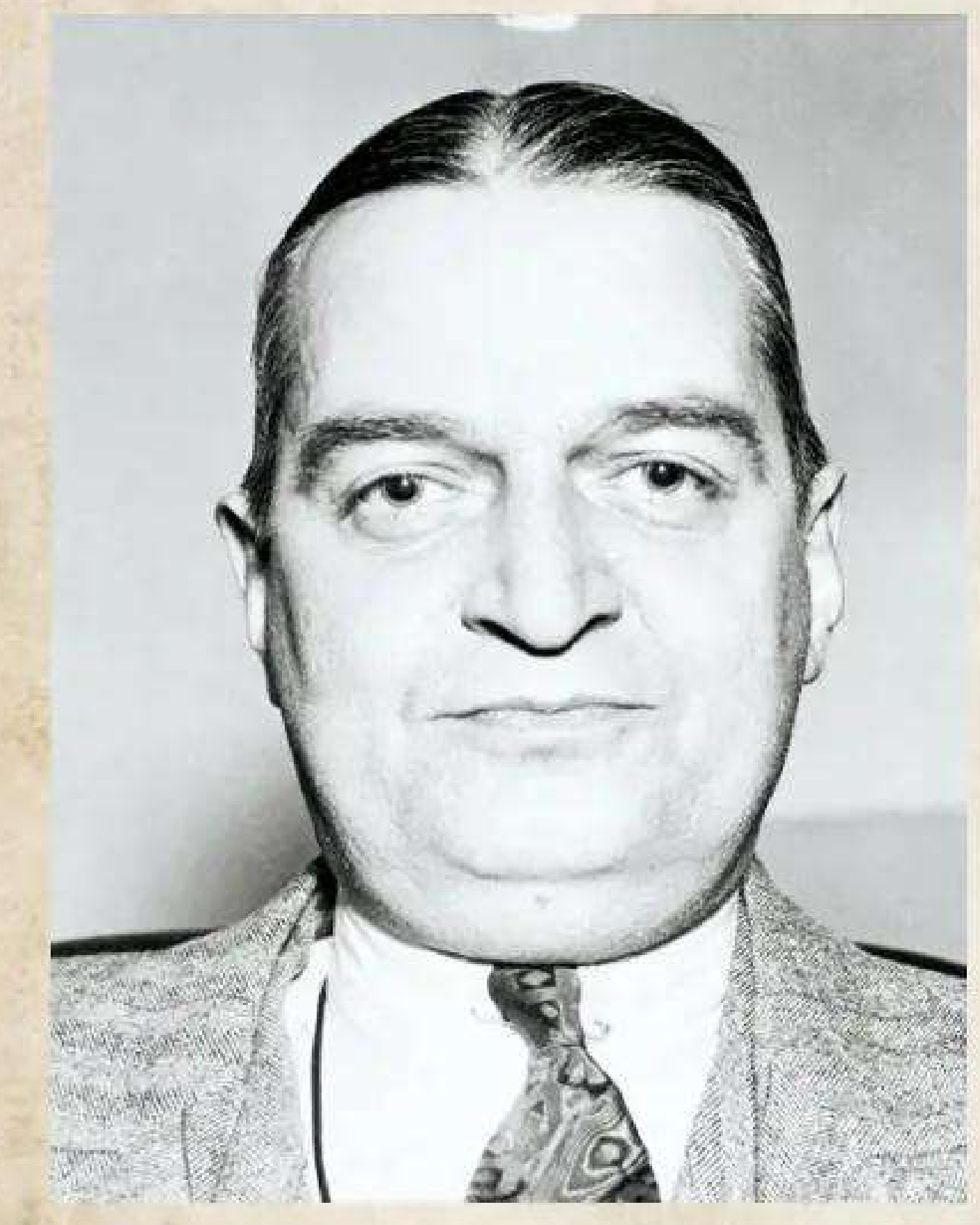
AMELIA EARHART

Famous for being the first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean by plane and also the first to make a non-stop transatlantic flight, Amelia Earhart disappeared somewhere over the Pacific Ocean in 1937. It is suspected that, while attempting to complete an around-the-world flight, Earhart and her navigator were killed during a plane crash. However, while this is the most likely explanation, in the decades since there have been numerous conspiracy theories. According to the National Air and Space Museum, one claim is she was captured by the Japanese and forced to broadcast propaganda under the name 'Tokyo Rose' during World War II.

THE MARY CELESTE

On 5 December 1872, the Mary Celeste was discovered adrift at sea. When she was boarded, not a soul of her ten-person crew could be found. Unusually none of the crew's belongings had been taken, although one of the lifeboats had gone. There were also no signs of a struggle or emergency, however there were a few feet of water in the hold. In the century since her disappearance, the Mary Celeste has become arguably the most famous nautical vanishing.

JOSEPH FORCE CRATER



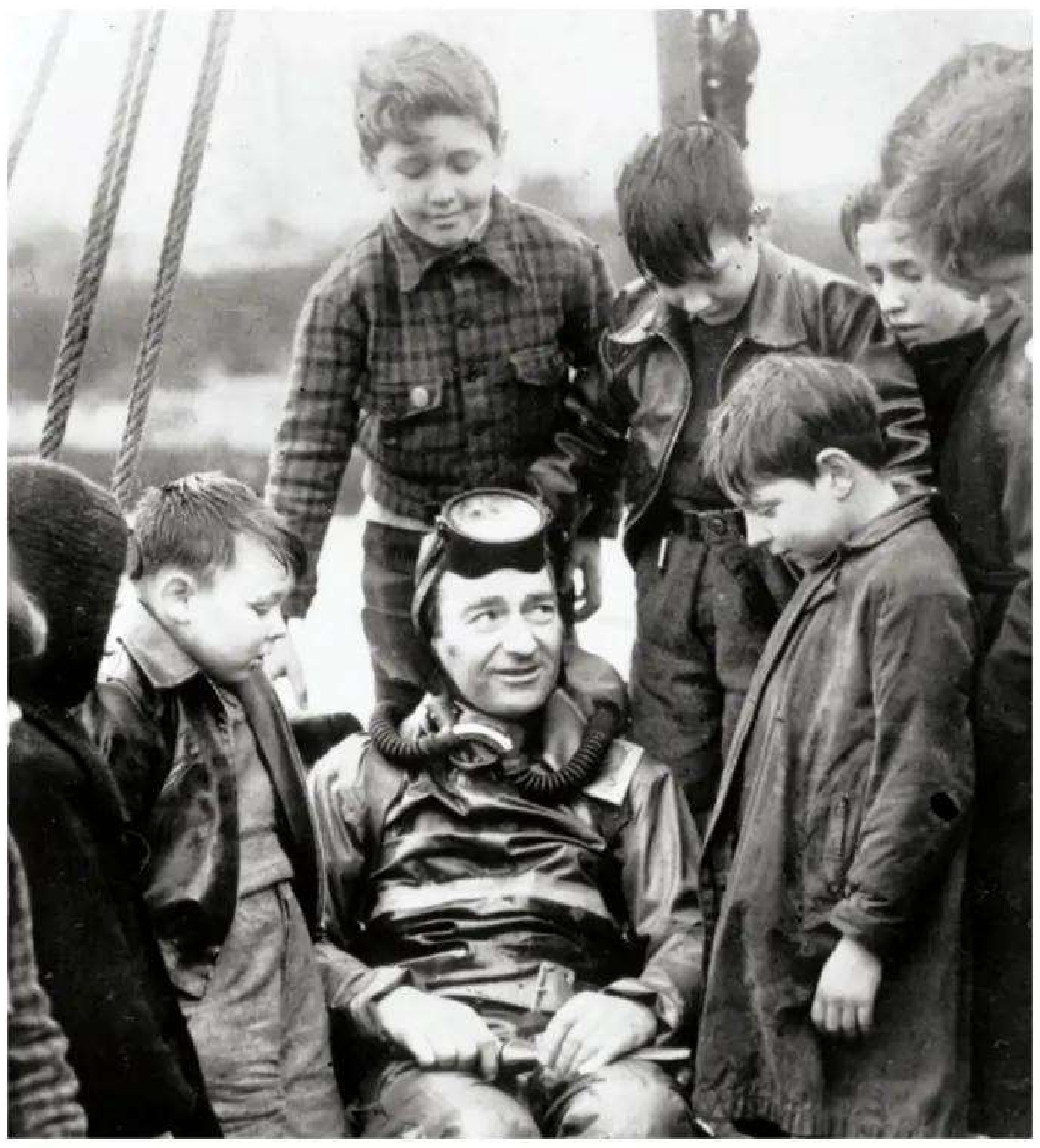
In 1930, Joseph Force Crater was appointed as a judge to the Supreme Court. However, a few short months later on the eve of 6 August, after having met two friends for dinner, he vanished off the face of the earth. His wife finally sounded the alarm when he did not return to their home in Maine after ten days. The story quickly captured the public imagination, and stories of the judge's mysterious behaviour in the days beforehand only added fuel to the fire.

FLANNAN ISLES LIGHTHOUSE

In December of 1900, Donald MacArthur, Thomas Marshall and James Ducat vanished from the lighthouse on Flannan Isles in the Outer Hebrides. Unusually, the log at the lighthouse complained of bad storms, yet no storms were recorded in this area. The door and gate were also locked and the beds were unmade. What happened on Flannan Isles remains a mystery and has inspired everything from a 2019 film, *The Vanishing*, to a 1970s episode of *Doctor Who*.

HAROLD HOLT

Surely one of the most high-profile historical disappearances is that of Australian prime minister Harold Holt, who disappeared having entered the water at Cheviot Beach in Victoria on 17 December 1967. To this day Holt's body has never been recovered. While some claim that the circumstances surrounding the prime minister's disappearance were unusual – and conspiracy theories emerged – it is most likely that he drowned during a freak accident.



Lionel Crabb recounts some of his adventures for a group of schoolboys when hunting for a Spanish galleon in Tobermory

After the war Crabb worked as a freelance diver. Here he prepares to investigate an object off the coast of Hastings in 1953

in his book *Classified: Secrecy And The State In Modern Britain* that Crabb followed this with a heavy drinking spree in nearby Havant. Showing little respect for the secrecy of the operation, Crabb is said to have informed several locals of his plans and others recognised his distinctive crab-handled sword stick.

The next morning, just before 7am, Crabb embarked on his mission. He returned just once to adjust his weights. With enough oxygen to last him 90 minutes, by 9.15, it was clear that Crabb was not coming back. At some point before 8am the crew of one of the Russian warships, the Sovershenny, saw a diver surface, clearly in great distress. Interestingly, the admiral who reported this story, Rear Admiral VF Kotov, claimed that this had occurred on the 18th and not the 19th. Made directly to the British prime minister, Anthony Eden, at a state dinner, it's likely that this claim was a less-than-subtle hint of Russian knowledge of the operation. The only problem was, that while the Russians had been aware of it, the British prime minister had not.

In the corridors of Whitehall, tensions were high. Anthony Eden was furious as he had made it clear that no intelligence operations were to be carried out during the Russians' visit. The fact that the mission had gone ahead without ministerial approval or knowledge only served to increase his anger. According to Gov.uk, even news of Crabb's disappearance was not immediately communicated to ministers as various intelligence departments desperately sought to pass blame. As a result of this embarrassment, the then head of the SIS known as 'C' retired. The circumstances surrounding Crabb's disappearance were kept secret, the public informed that the Lieutenant Commander had vanished while testing underwater apparatus in Portsmouth Harbour.

What happened to Commander Crabb?

In June 1957, over a year after Crabb's disappearance, a body clothed in diving gear was discovered by a group of fishermen near Chichester Harbour in Sussex. Disturbingly, the body had no head and no hands but the local coroner was unable to determine whether these injuries were the cause of death or not. Although attempts to positively identify the discovered body proved inconclusive, an inquest declared that it was indeed Lionel Crabb and on 6 July, the body was laid to rest in Portsmouth.

Surely then, this was the end of the story? Lieutenant-Commander Crabb's remains had at last been found, even if the circumstances of his death remained a mystery. There was just one problem – very few people were convinced that the headless corpse buried in Portsmouth was Lionel Crabb. Neither Crabb's ex-wife nor his girlfriend could provide positive identification and the verdict seems to have been entirely based on Sydney Knowles' assertion that both Crabb and the body had a similar scar on the left knee.

There was also the mystery of what exactly happened that fateful morning. One theory is that Crabb's poor health and the previous night's binge affected him during the dive. If he ran into trouble, he may have been taken aboard the Ordzhonikidze where he simply died. Author Nigel West, the pen name for former British MP Rupert Allason, stated in *Spycraft Secrets: An Espionage A-Z* that the night before, Crabb suffered a minor heart attack but went ahead with the dive nonetheless. However, author MS Goodman in his 2008 paper, *A Cold War Cover Up: The Buster Crabb Affair*, claimed that it was

DON'T CALL ME BUSTER

WHY LIONEL CRABB HATED BEING COMPARED TO THE AMERICAN STAR KNOWN FOR PLAYING FLASH GORDON

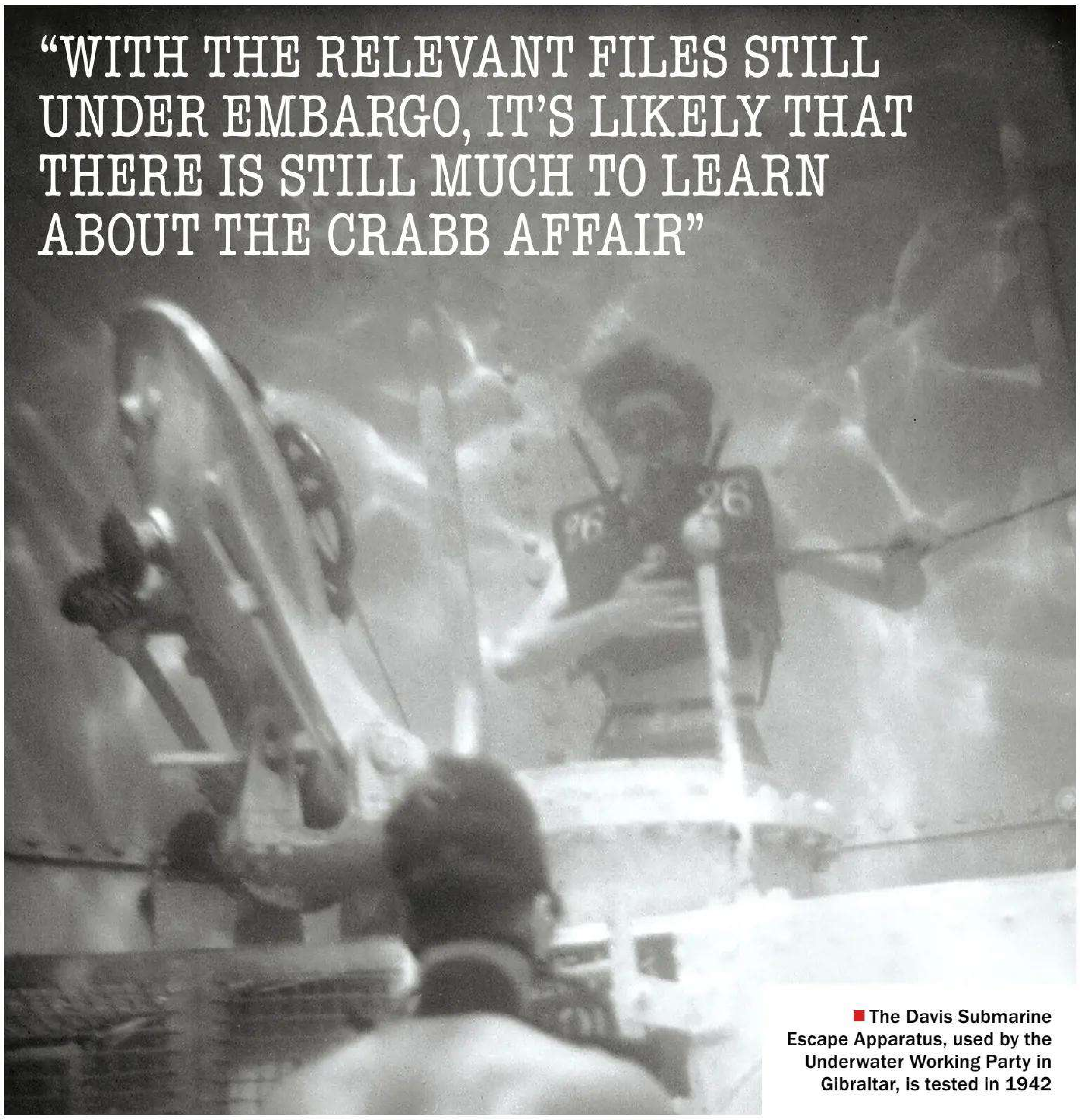
During World War II, Crabb earned the nickname 'Buster' after the film star Buster Crabbe. The actor had become known for playing the space-adventurer Flash Gordon in a number of 1930s serials, as well as other pulp heroes including Buck Rogers and Tarzan. Whereas Lionel Crabb was short and stocky, Buster Crabbe was tall and athletic. Furthermore, Buster Crabbe was also an Olympic swimmer where Lionel Crabb's swimming ability was weak. Likely feeling mocked by the comparison, Lionel Crabb himself was not fond of the nickname, threatening to deliver a swift punch to anyone who referred to him as 'Buster'.

American actor and Olympic swimmer Buster Crabbe, the inspiration behind Lionel's nickname another officer with Crabb who suffered the heart attack. Another theory is that he was caught and executed. When CIA officer Tennent H Bagley helped write the memoirs of KGB operative Sergey A Kondrashev, he was surprised when Kondrashev claimed prior awareness of Crabb's mission – suggesting a possible mole. What the KGB officer did with this information, and more importantly with Crabb, he did not reveal. In 2007 Eduard Koltsov, a Russian ex-frogman, claimed that he had been waiting for Crabb and, after catching him in the process of attaching what appeared to be a limpet mine to the Ordzhonikidze, cut his throat.

But others have been far less convinced of Crabb's demise, believing that he successfully defected or was taken by the Russian security services and brainwashed. The journalist Bernard Hutton believed that Crabb had defected and was now an officer in the Soviet Navy. Hutton even had a photograph of the man he believed to be Lionel Crabb. However, author Don Hale, while acknowledging that some family members believed this tale, states that "few others did".

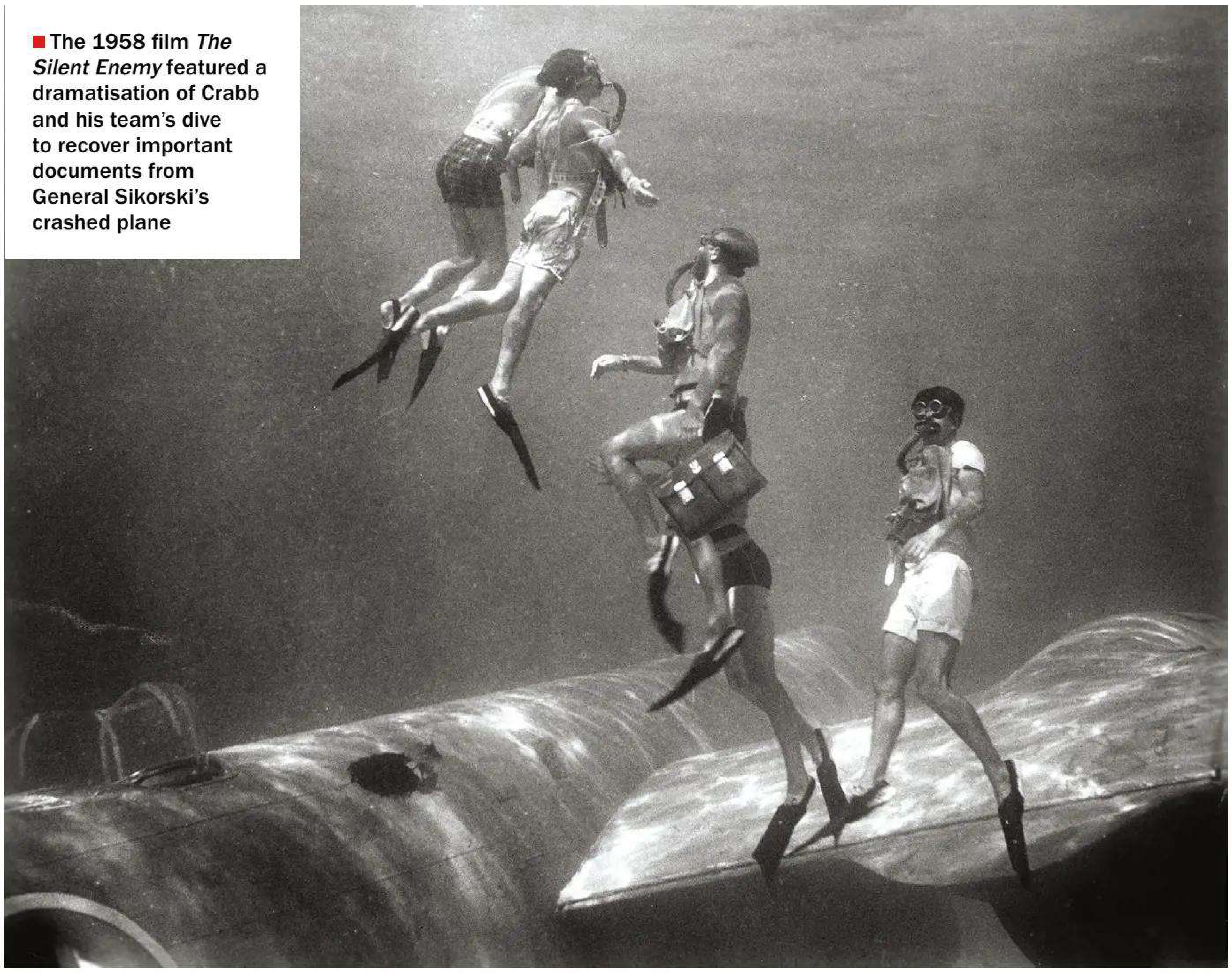
With the relevant files still under embargo, it's likely that there is still much to learn about the Crabb affair. Recently, historian Giles Milton explored the mystery in the first series of his podcast Cover Up. In one episode fellow historian Andrew Lownie claimed that Lord Mountbatten, as head of the Navy, must have had knowledge of the operation. Is this the reason for the extraordinary secrecy? Perhaps we will never know. Meanwhile, the files continue to sit in the National Archives, their contents waiting to be revealed. However, Crabb deserves to be remembered for more than just his disappearance, but rather for his past as a war hero, an expert diver, and a one of a kind. There'll never be another Lionel "Buster" Crabb.

"WITH THE RELEVANT FILES STILL UNDER EMBARGO, IT'S LIKELY THAT THERE IS STILL MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT THE CRABB AFFAIR"



The Davis Submarine Escape Apparatus, used by the Underwater Working Party in Gibraltar, is tested in 1942

The Sverdlov, the ship Lionel Crabb and Sydney Knowles were reported to have spied on in 1955



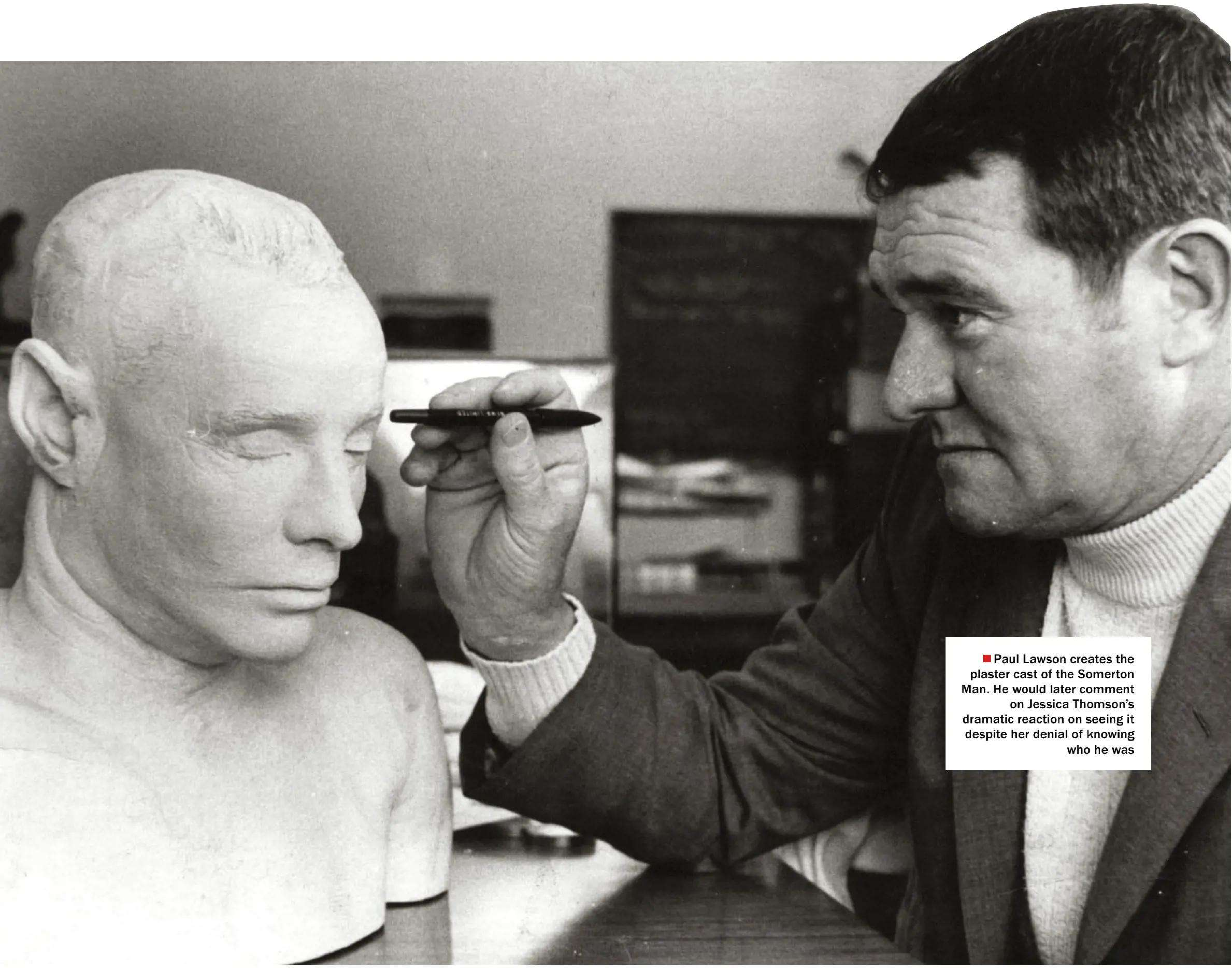
The 1958 film *The Silent Enemy* featured a dramatisation of Crabb and his team's dive to recover important documents from General Sikorski's crashed plane

Images source: Getty Images, Alamy, Shutterstock, wiki/Imperial War Museums

THE MYSTERIOUS MAN OF SOMERTON BEACH

While investigating the body of a man found dead on the sands of Somerton Beach, detectives would unearth secret codes, hidden phone numbers and a Russian spy ring – leaving them with more unanswered questions than viable clues

WORDS **JOANNA ELPHICK**



Paul Lawson creates the plaster cast of the Somerton Man. He would later comment on Jessica Thomson's dramatic reaction on seeing it despite her denial of knowing who he was

"IT SOON BECAME CLEAR THAT SOMETHING TRULY DREADFUL HAD HAPPENED TO THE MYSTERY MAN FROM THE BEACH"

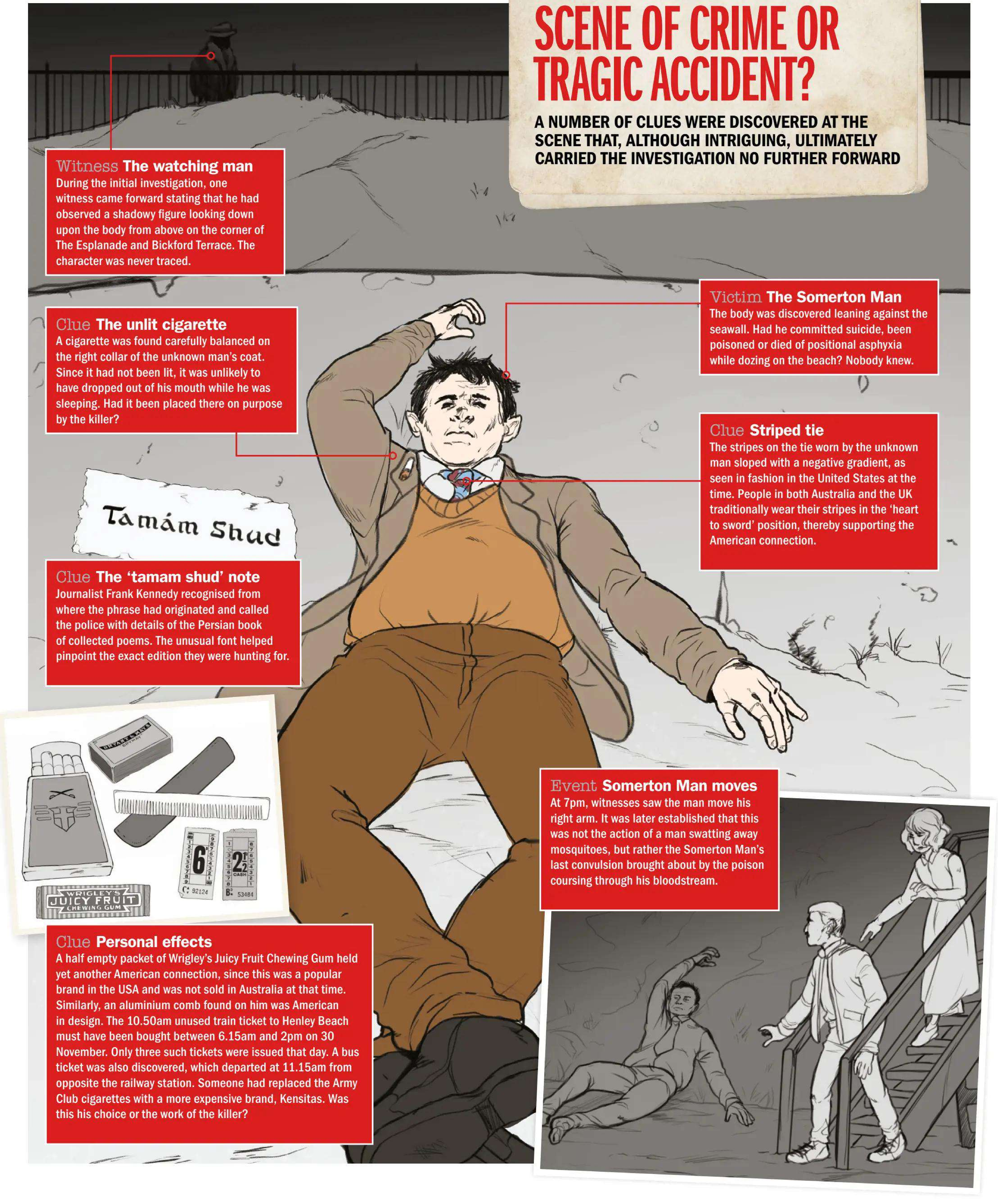
The young couple taking an evening walk along Australia's Somerton Beach didn't think much of the man they saw lying on the sand with his head propped against the old seawall. He appeared drowsy, for he lethargically raised his right arm before dropping it into his lap limply. They assumed he was just catching the last of the sun's rays, and so they left him to relax as they made their way up the 25 wooden steps leading to the corner of The Esplanade and Bickford Terrace, in the shadow of the Crippled Children's Home. It was 7pm on 30 November 1948, and the couple were to be the last people to see the mysterious Somerton Man while he was still alive.

30 minutes later, another pair of walkers strolling along the beach, which was near Glenelg, just south of Adelaide in south Australia, noticed that the prostrate figure must be dead drunk, as he appeared oblivious to the gathering mosquitoes. Sadly, it wouldn't be long before the insects would also take an unhealthy interest in him, since, in that short space of time, as the sun finally dipped below the horizon, he had passed away. Further witnesses later came forward to tell detectives of a strange character who had been gazing down upon the corpse from the top of the steps.

However, it was not until 6.30am on the morning of 1 December that John Lyons and two other gentlemen on horseback established that the sleeping figure was actually dead. The police were soon called and Detective Sergeant Lionel Leane, who was to lead the initial investigation, carefully noted down the scene before him. Leaning against the seawall with his legs fully extended towards the sea and his feet casually crossed, the man looked for all the world as if he had simply fallen asleep. A cigarette precariously balanced on the collar of his elegant double-breasted jacket, as if it had slipped from the corner of his mouth, just as if he had dozed off. Having taken photographs of the body in situ, Leane decided to carry out a thorough search of the gentleman's possessions. A number of items were noted down and bagged up for evidence, including a packet of cigarettes, a comb, chewing gum and an unused train ticket.

SCENE OF CRIME OR TRAGIC ACCIDENT?

A NUMBER OF CLUES WERE DISCOVERED AT THE SCENE THAT, ALTHOUGH INTRIGUING, ULTIMATELY CARRIED THE INVESTIGATION NO FURTHER FORWARD



Witness **The watching man**

During the initial investigation, one witness came forward stating that he had observed a shadowy figure looking down upon the body from above on the corner of The Esplanade and Bickford Terrace. The character was never traced.

Clue **The unlit cigarette**

A cigarette was found carefully balanced on the right collar of the unknown man's coat. Since it had not been lit, it was unlikely to have dropped out of his mouth while he was sleeping. Had it been placed there on purpose by the killer?

Clue **The 'tamam shud' note**

Journalist Frank Kennedy recognised from where the phrase had originated and called the police with details of the Persian book of collected poems. The unusual font helped pinpoint the exact edition they were hunting for.

Clue **Personal effects**

A half empty packet of Wrigley's Juicy Fruit Chewing Gum held yet another American connection, since this was a popular brand in the USA and was not sold in Australia at that time. Similarly, an aluminium comb found on him was American in design. The 10.50am unused train ticket to Henley Beach must have been bought between 6.15am and 2pm on 30 November. Only three such tickets were issued that day. A bus ticket was also discovered, which departed at 11.15am from opposite the railway station. Someone had replaced the Army Club cigarettes with a more expensive brand, Kensitas. Was this his choice or the work of the killer?

Victim **The Somerton Man**

The body was discovered leaning against the seawall. Had he committed suicide, been poisoned or died of positional asphyxia while dozing on the beach? Nobody knew.

Clue **Striped tie**

The stripes on the tie worn by the unknown man sloped with a negative gradient, as seen in fashion in the United States at the time. People in both Australia and the UK traditionally wear their stripes in the 'heart to sword' position, thereby supporting the American connection.

Event **Somerton Man moves**

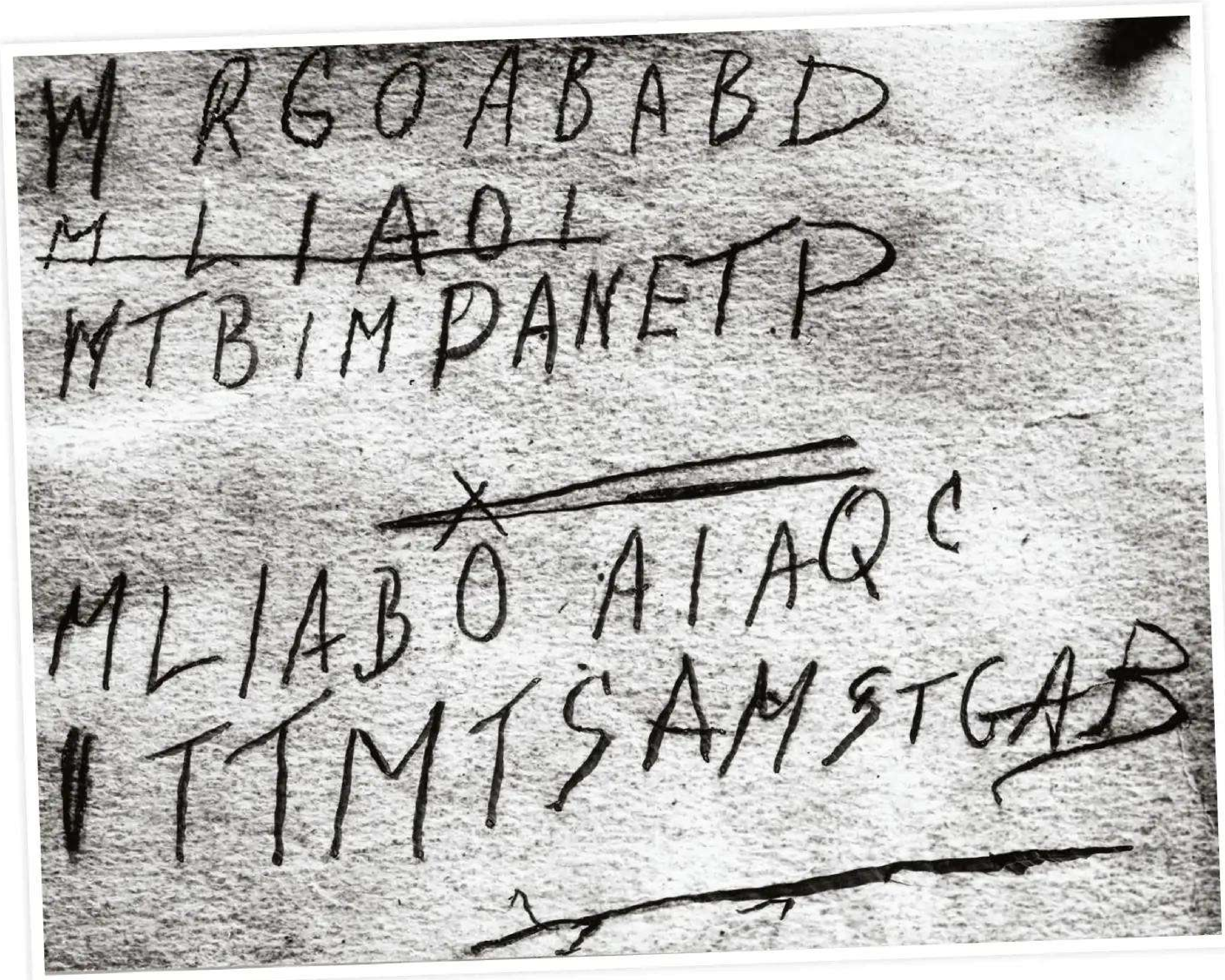
At 7pm, witnesses saw the man move his right arm. It was later established that this was not the action of a man swatting away mosquitoes, but rather the Somerton Man's last convulsion brought about by the poison coursing through his bloodstream.

JUST A COINCIDENCE?

Three years before the discovery of the Somerton Man, 34-year-old George Marshall from Singapore was found dead just across from Clifton Gardens in Ashton Park. He was discovered lying on his back as if fast asleep. Stranger still, a copy of the *Rubáiyát Of Omar Khayyám* had been left open and carefully balanced on his chest. George, the brother of Singapore's first chief minister, David Marshall, was thought to have committed suicide by ingesting poison. On 15 August 1945, the authorities carried out an inquest into his death. Under two weeks later, on 28 August, a woman by the name of Gwenneth Dorothy Graham, who had given testimony at the hearing, was found floating face downwards in her bath water. Her wrists had been slit.

THE ENCRYPTED MESSAGE

The five lines of text discovered on the last page of the *Rubáiyát Of Omar Khayyám* have never been deciphered and therefore remain a tantalising mystery to conspiracy theorists around the world. Initially thought to be a foreign phrase, cryptographers now believe the encrypted message is of English origin. In 2004, a retired detective suggested that the last line stood for 'It's Time To Move To South Australia Moseley Street', which would link the message to Jessica Thomson's address. Computational linguists agree that it is probably English and more likely to be shorthand than code. Further specialists have claimed that micro writing can be seen using a UV backlight and an Olympus camera set to macro with optical magnification. Images of this were released on the internet in March 2017.



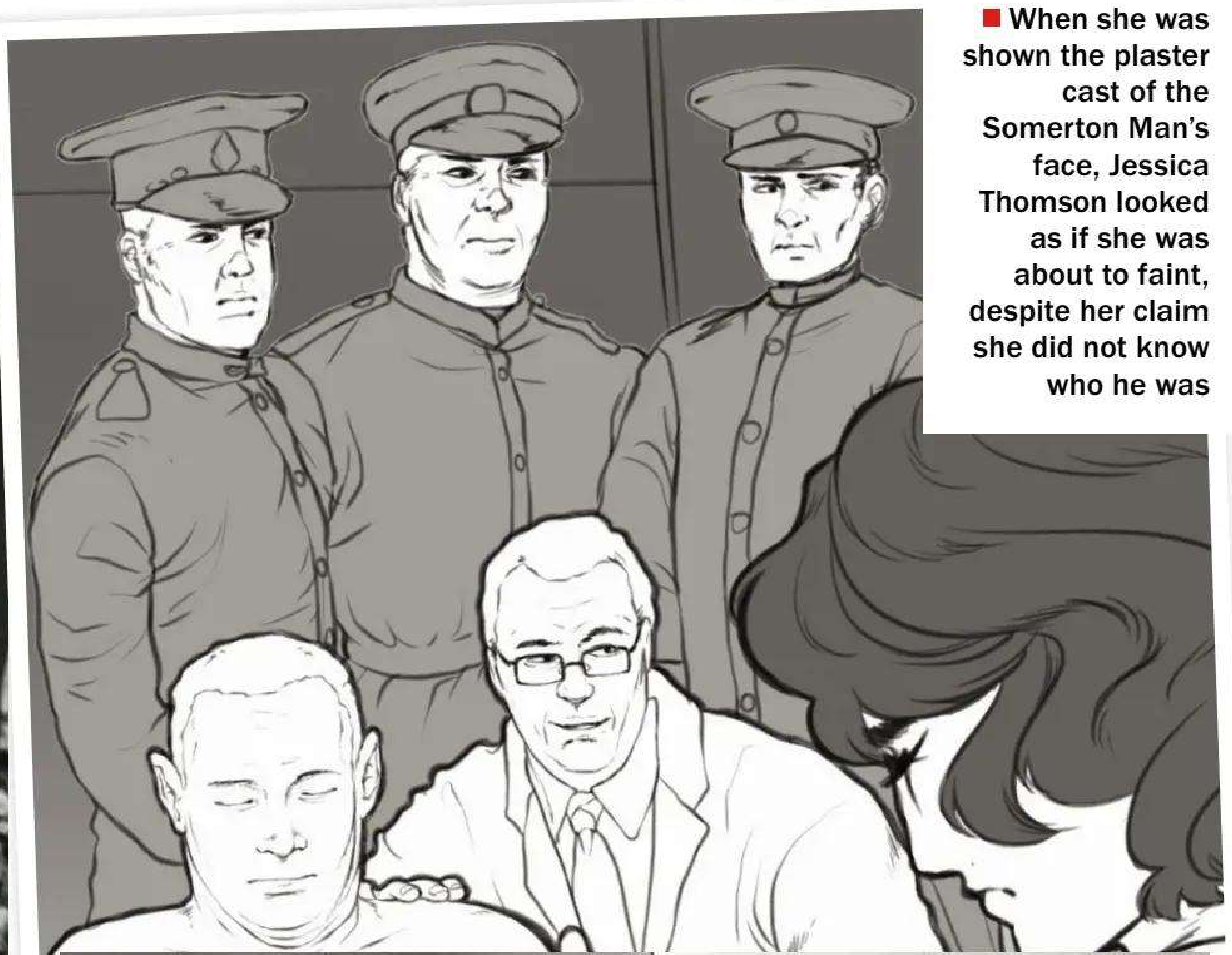
WRGOABABD
~~MLIAOI~~
WTBIMPANETP
MLIABO AIAQC
ITTMTSAMSTGAB

Suicide or murder?

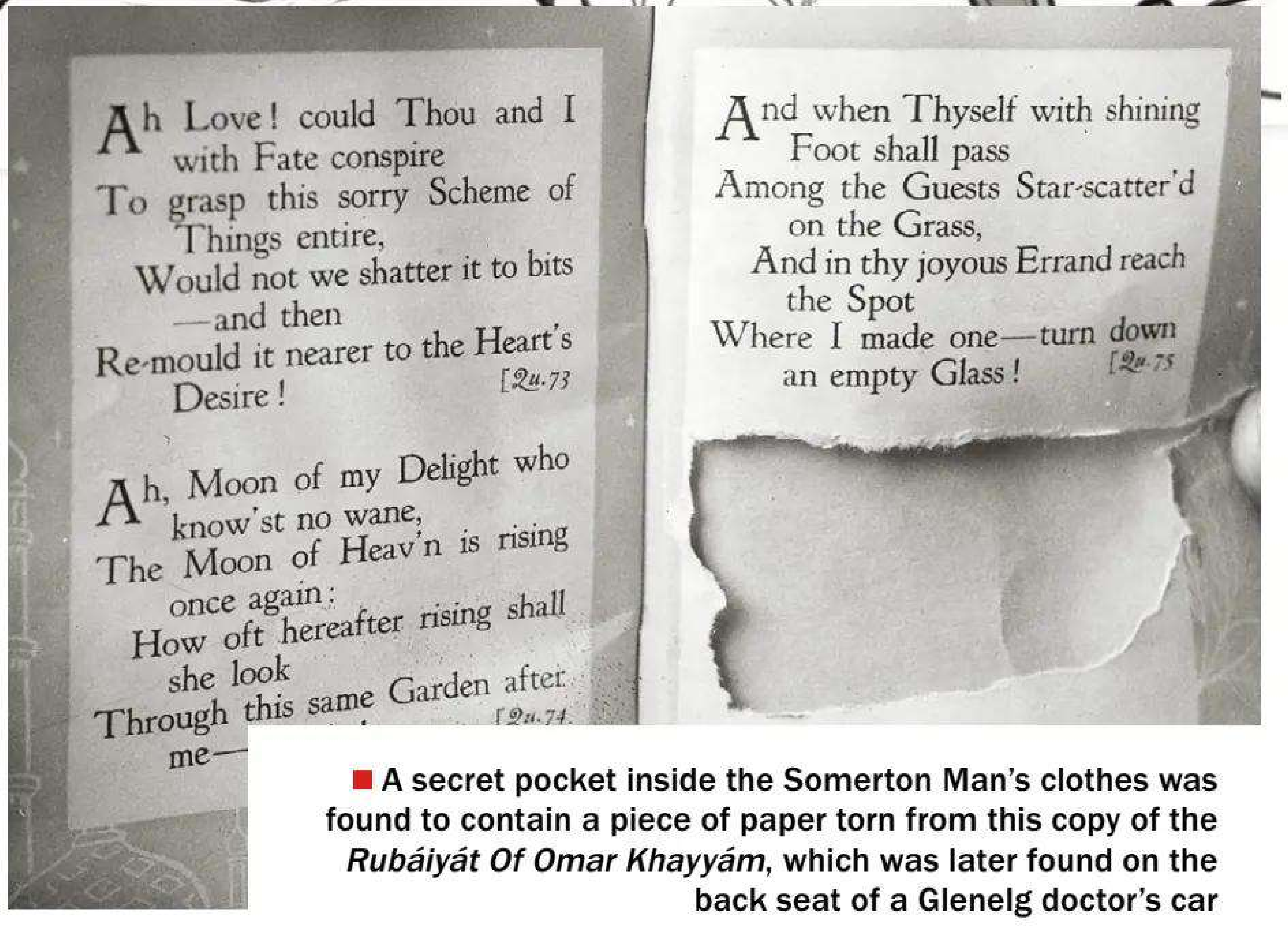
Having gathered all the evidence available from an initial search, the detective had the body sent to John Burton Cleland, a leading pathologist of the time. At 1.5 metres tall with broad shoulders and a small, slim waist, the man appeared to have been in good physical shape. However, the autopsy was to prove otherwise. Upon opening up the body, it soon became clear that something truly dreadful had happened to the mystery man from the beach. Blood had mixed in with his last meal within the stomach, which was, along with the pharynx, duodenum, kidneys and spleen, heavily congested. The gullet had ulcerated and there were obvious signs of an acute gastric haemorrhage. This was clearly not a natural death. But could it have been a suicide? Cleland thought not. The unknown man had been poisoned, probably with a soluble hypnotic or barbiturate, which would have caused the victim to vomit excessively after ingestion. As there was no vomit present at the scene, the detective theorised that the man had been moved post-poisoning, therefore ruling out suicide. The couple walking on the beach had unwittingly witnessed his final death throes.

The questions were many, the evidence limited. Cleland could estimate the time of death at approximately 2am. The man's hands and fingernails suggested he had not been a casual

Salvation Army Captain Em Webb conducted the Somerton Man's funeral service, which was paid for by the South Australian Grandstand Bookmakers Association. Reporters and police officers look on



When she was shown the plaster cast of the Somerton Man's face, Jessica Thomson looked as if she was about to faint, despite her claim she did not know who he was



Ah Love! could Thou and I
with Fate conspire
To grasp this sorry Scheme of
Things entire,
Would not we shatter it to bits
—and then
Re-mould it nearer to the Heart's
Desire! [Qu.73

Ah, Moon of my Delight who
know'st no wane,
The Moon of Heav'n is rising
once again:
How oft hereafter rising shall
she look
Through this same Garden after
me— [Qu.74.

And when Thyself with shining
Foot shall pass
Among the Guests Star-scatter'd
on the Grass,
And in thy joyous Errand reach
the Spot
Where I made one—turn down
an empty Glass! [Qu.75

A secret pocket inside the Somerton Man's clothes was found to contain a piece of paper torn from this copy of the *Rubáiyát Of Omar Khayyám*, which was later found on the back seat of a Glenelg doctor's car

> "WHEN IT FINALLY CAME TO DETERMINING THE CAUSE OF DEATH, NO ONE COULD BE ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE"

labourer while his calf muscles indicated he had been a long-distance runner or possibly a dancer. His toes were unusually shaped, as if he had forced them into pointed shoes or ballet slippers, but Cleland thought it was more likely that he had suffered from dystonia of the toes.

The fact that he carried no identification or wallet upon him indicated suicide, but when the clothes were examined, it was discovered that the labels had been carefully removed. This was highly suspicious, and not in keeping with a suicide theory. With the lack of vomit and removal of identifying marks, all notions of suicide were abandoned. This man, whoever he was, had most likely been murdered and carefully placed on Somerton Beach sands.

More evidence, more questions

Less than a month later, a brown suitcase was discovered by staff at the Adelaide railway station. Although all labels had been removed from it, it was quickly established that the case had been checked into the cloakroom on 30 November and had almost certainly belonged to the unknown man found on the beach. Detective Lionel Leane and his colleagues, Dave Bartlett and Len Brown, opened the suitcase to discover pyjamas, a dressing gown and slippers along with an electrician's screwdriver, a pair of sharpened scissors, a sharpened table knife, a stencilling brush and a zinc square used to protect the knife.

On removing a pair of trousers from the case, a scattering of sand fell out of the cuffs. A card, neatly wrapped with orange-waxed thread, was discovered that clearly linked the case to the dead body, as exactly the same thread had been used to mend the trousers worn by the victim. Once again, the majority of labels had been removed with the exception of a couple that displayed the name 'T. Keane', 'Kean' and 'Keane'. A coat revealed a link to the USA, as this was the only country manufacturing such featherstitching at the time, and the style matched those worn in the country. A set of paper and pencils had been packed in the suitcase but no correspondence was discovered, which would have been an extremely useful find.

Equally strange was the fact that there were no spare pairs of socks found with the underpants and pyjamas. The detectives were baffled. More clues had been discovered but they seemed to lead them round and round in circles. Having chased up every conceivable lead, they appeared to be no further forward.

On 17 June, Cleland conducted a thorough coroner's inquest. Most of his conclusions were speculation. The cleanliness of the victim's shoes strongly suggested he had died elsewhere and been carried to the spot where his body was discovered. This idea was in keeping with the lack of vomit where the body had been discovered. Further analysis of the stomach contents led professor of pharmacology Cedric Stanton Hick to believe that the man had ingested a cardiac glycoside such as digitalis or ouabain, a highly toxic substance. However, when it finally came to determining the cause of death, no one could be absolutely positive. The Australian police contacted the USA's FBI asking for help in identifying their corpse but, having consulted FBI chief J Edgar Hoover, the agency was not able to find a fingerprint match for the man. A plaster cast of the unknown man's head and chest had also been taken before his burial on 14 June 1949 at the West Terrace Cemetery in Adelaide. However, one further clue would yield itself at the inquest, and it was to baffle the entire world.

THE INVESTIGATION

THE DISCOVERY OF A SECRET CODE INSTIGATED A WHIRLWIND OF CONSPIRACY THEORIES

During the detailed examination of the dead man's clothing, a small scrap of paper was discovered rolled up in the fob pocket of his trousers. The words "Tamam Shud" were printed on it in an unusual font. The evidence was photographed and released to the press, and the mysterious clue was printed nationwide in all the papers. The words, meaning "finished" or "it is ended" in Persian, were soon identified as the last page of Edward Fitzgerald's the *Rubáiyát Of Omar Khayyám*, a collection of poems translated from Persian. It wouldn't be long before the exact copy from which the scrap had been torn was located.

Where the book had been found seems to have been lost over the years. The timing of its discovery is also a mystery but the general consensus seems to be that a member of the public found it on the back seat of an unlocked car in Jetty Road, Glenelg, not far from where the body had been discovered. The scrap of paper was interesting and again raised the idea that the unknown man had committed suicide, but it was the book itself that instigated the authorities to call it an "unparalleled mystery". The book contained a secret code.

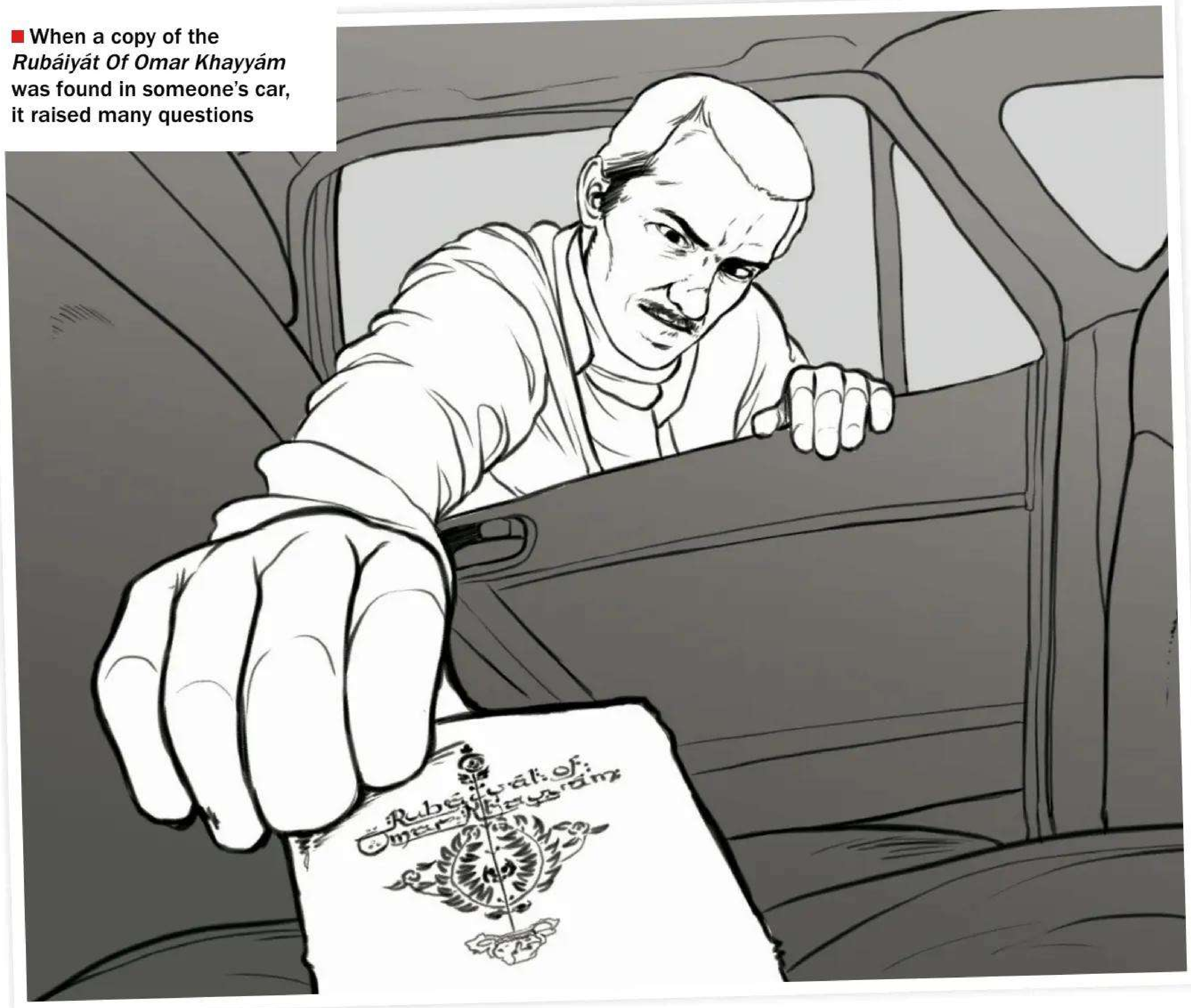
Five lines of code, all written in capital letters, were found in the back of the book. The second line had been scored through suggesting a mistake on the part of the writer, but this has never been confirmed. Was this a foreign language, an encrypted message or merely the ramblings of a madman? Specialists were brought in to decipher its meaning but, to this date, no satisfactory explanation has been given.

Along with the infuriatingly mysterious code, detectives found a telephone number, and this proved to be more useful. Although the number, X3239, was unlisted, it was quickly traced back to a local resident by the name Jessica Ellen Thomson. Jessica, also known as Jo, was a nurse who lived at 90A Glenelg Street, no more than 400 metres away from Somerton Beach where the body had been discovered.

Jessica Thomson denied any knowledge of the unknown man. She didn't know who he was or why he might have her phone number. She was fearful of any publicity and insisted that all records of her name be removed from the case. From this point on a variety of pseudonyms were used including the pet name 'Jestyn', which had been used by her former co-workers.

Detective Leane was not convinced that Jestyn was being entirely truthful regarding her lack of knowledge of the body's identity. Once again, he pushed for information and this time he showed her the plaster cast of the man's face made before the inquest. Her reaction was quite extraordinary. Paul Lawson, the creator of the cast, noted that, having seen it, Jestyn looked away and refused to so much as glance at it again. Leane, on the other hand, noticed her sudden change in pallor. He later stated that she was so taken aback that he believed she was about to faint. However, she stuck to her story.

She did confirm that during World War II she had owned a copy of the *Rubáiyát Of Omar Khayyám*, but told the investigators she had given it to a boyfriend, Alf Boxall. After the war, Alf had contacted her but she was already engaged to Prosper Thomson and did not want to renew their friendship. She had not heard from him since. Could this be the man on the beach? The police were convinced that this was the break they had been waiting for.



When a copy of the *Rubáiyát Of Omar Khayyám* was found in someone's car, it raised many questions

In July of 1949, Alf Boxall was located, working in a bus depot in Sydney. Although taken aback by the police interest, he was happy to show them his copy of the book, which had been signed 'Jestyn' by his then girlfriend. He could think of no connection to the unknown man and the police were at a loss once again. The case went cold.

The body of the man was finally released and buried in Adelaide in a pitiful multiple burial site. However, somebody cared, for years later flowers started appearing on the grave. To this day it is unknown who the mourner was.

A variety of suggestions were raised about the man's identity, including that he was a Swedish station worker, a seaman named Tommy Reade and, later, a worker on a steamship. At least three people came forward saying the body belonged to Robert Walsh, a 63-year-old woodcutter, but these witnesses retracted their statements when they discovered the body lacked certain identifying scars.

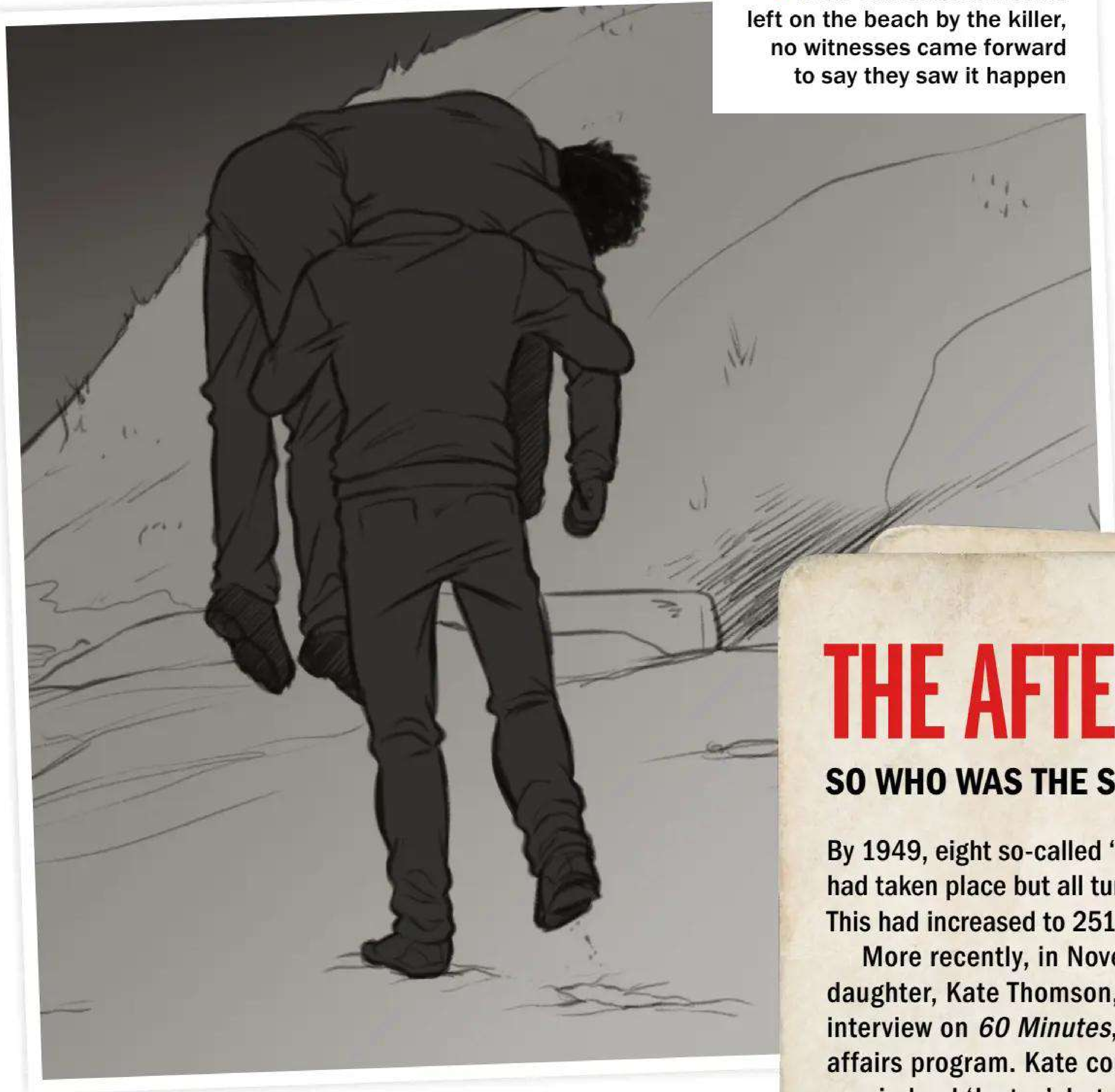
In 2009, Professor Derek Abbott from the University of Adelaide decided to take up the challenge of cracking the Somerton Man mystery once and for all. The investigation covered further examination of the bizarre code, re-analysis of the poison and another look at the evasive Jestyn. Sadly, Jessica Thomson herself had passed away in 2007, but her family proved to be far more loquacious.

In May 2009, Abbott called in dental experts to analyse images of the Somerton Man's teeth. They concluded that the unknown man had suffered from an extremely rare genetic disorder known as hypodontia. Less than two per cent of the population are afflicted with this condition, which leaves the mouth without incisors. The canine teeth grow directly next to the two front teeth, making this an easily identifiable disorder.

Meanwhile, Henneberg had identified another unusual trait. The Somerton Man had a rare ear formation that meant that his upper ear hollow, or cymba, was larger than his cavum, or lower ear hollow. This anatomical feature occurs in only one or two per cent of the population.

Back in 1946, Jessica Thomson had given birth to a baby boy, whom she named Robin. He had two distinctive facial features: no incisors and strangely shaped ears whereby his cymba was larger than his cavum. The chances of Robin having the same ear formation and hypodontia as the Somerton Man were one in 10 million and one in 20 million respectively.

Robin passed away in 2009 but was survived by his ex-wife, Roma Egan, and his daughter, Rachel. Abbott sent a photograph of the Somerton Man to Roma and asked if she knew of anyone who resembled the image. Roma did not hesitate – the Somerton Man looked spookily like her late ex-husband Robin. Could Robin have been the love child of Jessica and the Somerton Man but passed off as the son of Prosper Thomson? It was an extremely strong possibility. DNA testing would of course prove it one way or the other, but in 2011, Attorney General John Rau refused permission to exhume the body of the Somerton Man, as it was not deemed to be in the public's interest.



If the Somerton Man was left on the beach by the killer, no witnesses came forward to say they saw it happen

> “IN 2011, ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN RAU REFUSED PERMISSION TO EXHUME THE BODY OF THE SOMERTON MAN AS IT WAS NOT DEEMED TO BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST”

THE AFTERMATH

SO WHO WAS THE SOMERTON MAN? THE MYSTERY RAGES ON

By 1949, eight so-called ‘positive’ identifications had taken place but all turned out to be incorrect. This had increased to 251 by 1953.

More recently, in November 2013, Jessica’s daughter, Kate Thomson, agreed to give an interview on *60 Minutes*, an American current affairs program. Kate confirmed that her mother was indeed ‘Jestyn’, but she had not been truthful to the detectives all those years ago. She claimed that her mother had admitted to her that she had known the Somerton Man all along and, even more shockingly, she had not been the only one to know his true identity. Apparently, her mother believed that “a higher level than the police force” was already aware of his name and business. This in itself was dramatic stuff but did Kate have any idea what ‘his business’ might have been?

Kate fervently believed that both the Somerton Man and her own mother were spies working for the Russians. Although this was only speculation, she had some highly interesting circumstantial evidence to back up her claim. Having given up nursing, Jessica had started teaching English to incoming migrants. Kate stated that her mother spoke fluent Russian but never explained from where or why she had learned to do so. She also had a deep interest in the concept of communism, much to the horror of her husband, Prosper.

The rare form of poison used to dispose of the Somerton Man, the strange undecipherable code, the refusal of Jestyn to acknowledge their relationship plus the total lack of identifying possessions all led to the tantalising thought of a spy ring. Interestingly, former South Australian Chief Superintendent Len Brown believed that the man had originally heralded from a country in the Warsaw Pact. He had come to this conclusion during the 1940s due to the fact that police could do nothing to establish an identity, and the Cold War was under way.

Derek Abbott, on the other hand, is less inclined to follow the spy ring theory. As he himself stated, “You don’t have to be a spy to be secretive.” His conclusion is far more grounded, believing that the man was probably no more than a wheeler dealer involved in the black market and, having attempted to reconnect with his lost love, he had gone for a snooze on the beach where he died of positional asphyxia – a great deal less exciting but possible nonetheless.

However, just when everybody thought that the most likely truth was disappointingly dull, a new piece of speculation reared its head and began a fascinating addition to Australia’s unparalleled mystery. In February 2017, an online identity by the name of ‘Gordon332’ posted the latest suggested name of the Somerton Man. During August 1948, Major Pavel Ivanovich Fedosimov of the KGB was seen boarding a ship bound for Russia. He was never seen again. Known photographs of Fedosimov strongly suggest he had the same unusual ear formation. Apparently, Gordon332 has more evidence to follow…

ALTERNATIVE THEORIES

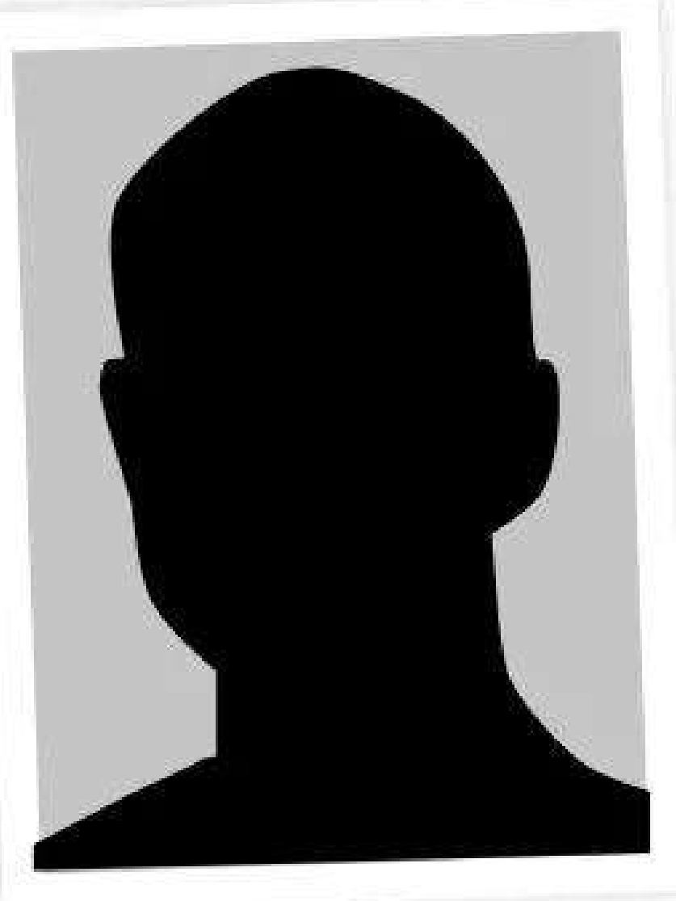
At one point, the body was named as EC Johnson of Payneham but this was somewhat undermined when the real Mr Johnson turned up at the police station.

During late November 1959, an inmate of New Zealand’s Wanganui Prison by the name of EB Collins claimed to know the Somerton Man’s true identity. At some point his statement was mysteriously misplaced.

Years later, a woman came forward with an identification card of a man named HC Reynolds. She thought that the photograph looked similar to that of the Somerton Man. The card, given to a foreign seaman during World War I, was passed on to anthropologist Maciej Henneberg. Although the faces were alike, it was the fact that both men had a mole on their cheek that convinced Henneberg to positively identify him as the Somerton Man.

WHO ARE THE PRIME SUSPECTS?

THE CASE REMAINS UNSOLVED, BUT THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO A FEW POTENTIAL SUSPECTS



JESSICA THOMSON

Some suspect that the ex-lover of the Somerton Man was the culprit. Could Jessica Thomson, a nurse working in Adelaide, have been a Soviet spy with whom he had fathered a child before his death? Had she poisoned an ex-lover? But investigators had no evidence to charge her with any crime, so she was dropped as a suspect.

UNKNOWN CHEMIST

Given the nature of the victim’s death and the rare poisonous chemicals found in the Somerton Man’s postmortem, chemists have always been persons of interest in this case. Could a chemist with access to some uncommon and dangerous drugs have had a personal vendetta against the Somerton Man?

SECRET SPY

The vast mystery surrounding the Somerton Man has led to the theory (however likely or unlikely) that he could have been a spy whose death was the result of an espionage operation to remove him from the covert unit. Perhaps the undecipherable code and rare poison point to a hit undertaken by an undercover agency.

Images source: Getty Images, Shutterstock; Illustrations: Rebekka Hearl

ТРУКЦИИ ДЛЯ УПОТРЕБЛЕНИЯ ШИФРОВАЛЬНЫХ БЛОКНОТОВ

АНИЕ БЛОКНОТОВ. Текст на страницах блокнотов
из случайно подобранных пятизначных чисел, которые
тся ключевыми группами. Цифры этих чисел употребляются
ифрования и расшифрования сообщений. Края блокнота
ены бумагой со всех четырех сторон, чтобы непосвященные
не могли рассматривать страниц блокнота без вашего
а. Каждый блокнот приготовляется в двух экземплярах.
шем распоряжении будут подлинники одних и копии других
кнотов. Подлинник (зашиф) употребляется для зашифрования
одящих сообщений, а копия (расшиф) для расшифрования
одящих сообщений.

. ПРОСТОЙ ЦИФРОВОЙ ТЕКСТ. Открытый текст сообщения
олжен сначала быть переведен в цифровые заменители, и
только после этого вы можете использовать ключевой текст
блокнота для зашифрования вашего сообщения. Перевод
производится посредством замены каждой буквы открытого
текста цифрой согласно нижеприведенной таблицы № 1.
Текст, состоящий из цифровых заменителей, называется
текстом". Например, слово "СЕНТЯБРЬ"

С Е Н Т Я Б Р
18 06 14 19 32 02 17

61740

CI 637
Reg. 2

10523

CI 626
Reg. 1

ANTENNA
THERMOCOUPLE TYPE
AMPERES R.F.
AMMETER IS 178
ANTENNA SELECTOR
ANTENNA CURRENT

SECRET SIGNALS

Hidden inconspicuously amid the static are some mysterious transmissions – but what are they for? And who is behind them?

WORDS **JACQUELINE SNOWDEN**

Tune a shortwave radio just right and you may be able to pick up some bizarre broadcasts. Strings of Morse code, sporadic snippets of music, a lone voice reading a series of random numbers… these curious communications full of strange and sometimes incoherent sounds may not make any sense to the casual listener, but they are quite possibly delivering important information to someone.

Many of these mysterious frequencies are known as numbers stations. While they never announce themselves, and no governments or intelligence agencies claim to run them, it is widely accepted that these stations are sending coded messages to spies. This is not as outlandish an explanation as it may seem. Shortwave radio may be comparatively low-tech in the internet age, but it's a reliable method of one-way communication over long distances. Digital activity can be monitored or traced relatively easily, but with numbers stations the intended recipient of a transmission is anonymous.

Operatives receiving these messages would likely decode them using one-time pads, code sheets that only the sender and receiver have. These lists of random digits work with a specific key to translate the number sequence into the intended message (for example, at a very basic level the key could be 1=A). Once that message was transmitted or deciphered, both the sender and receiver would destroy their key, leaving no trace of the means to decode the message. Every single message uses a new, randomly generated key – for all intents and purposes, the system is uncrackable. It's possible that these secret radio signals aren't exclusively used by intelligence agencies. Some believe that organised crime gangs may use the same technology to coordinate smuggling operations and other illegal activities.

It makes for uneasy eavesdropping to know that you won't be the only person listening in on a numbers station. Here are just some of the spooky spy signals that have infiltrated the public airwaves.

> "SOME BELIEVE THAT ORGANISED CRIME GANGS MAY USE THE SAME TECH"

THE BUZZER

ARE THE BROADCASTS OF THIS SECRETIVE RUSSIAN STATION JUST A DEFUNCT COLD WAR RELIC, OR ARE THEY SOMETHING MORE SINISTER?

Somewhere in north-western Russia, transmitters have been broadcasting a series of repetitive beeps and buzzes almost continuously since at least the early 1980s. The regularity and reliability of the unexplained signal fascinated the small community of shortwave radio enthusiasts who stumbled across it. With the rise of the internet, access to the signal via online sources gained the transmission thousands more captivated fans. Despite constantly growing interest in the signals, their origin and true purpose are still a mystery.

The station initially transmitted intermittent beeps and went by the call sign UVB-76. In 1992, the beeps inexplicably changed to buzzes, firing once every two to three seconds, all day and all night. Through the crackling airwaves, the buzzes sound almost like a ghostly foghorn.

Occasionally, the buzzing would be interrupted by a male voice reading out a random series of numbers, words spelled in the phonetic alphabet, and sometimes names as well. The Buzzer – as it unofficially became known – would sometimes change pitch and frequency, but was seemingly unaffected by whatever upheavals engulfed Russia. Through the end of the Cold War, the fall of the Soviet Union, the Chechen wars and all the political manoeuvring within the Russian Federation, UVB-76 kept buzzing along.

Then on 5 June 2010, without warning or explanation, The Buzzer stopped buzzing. For the first time in decades, the station fell silent for approximately 24 hours, but went back to buzzing business as usual the next day. For the next few months the otherwise monotonous, metronome-like transmissions were occasionally interrupted by Morse code, distorted voice recordings and two more brief signal blackouts.

YEARS ACTIVE: 1970S/80S – PRESENT

Despite much speculation, nobody knows the precise location of The Buzzer's current source

On 23 August 2010, UVB-76 got even stranger. The buzzing stopped and a clear voice announced: "UVB-76, UVB-76 – 93 882 NAIMINA 74 14 35 74 – 9, 3, 8, 8, 2, Nikolai, Anna, Ivan, Michail, Ivan, Nikolai, Anna, 7, 4, 1, 4, 3, 5, 7, 4." Enthusiasts assumed these were coordinates, which translate to the middle of the Barents Sea (between Scandinavia, Svalbard and north-western Russia). And perhaps their decryptions were right – the Russian military perform missile tests in those remote waters.

> "THE RISE OF THE INTERNET SAW A RESURGENCE IN INTEREST IN THESE CRYPTIC BROADCASTS"

The Buzzer resumed, but for the next couple of days those tuning in overheard what sounded like someone shuffling around or knocking things over. There was an open microphone in whatever room the signal was being broadcast from, and someone or something was definitely there. But, despite much anticipation among eavesdroppers, there was no 'man behind the curtain' reveal.

Over the following few weeks there were several more interruptions – but this time, they were musical interludes. Listeners overheard short extracts of Tchaikovsky's 'Danse des Petits Cygnes' ('Dance of the Little Swans') from Swan Lake, between the drones. Then, on 7 September 2010, a male voice broke The Buzzer's vocal silence once again. The mysterious announcer declared the signal's new call sign: "Mikhail Dmitri Zhenya Boris" or MDZhB. One of the most famous transmissions among Buzzer enthusiasts occurred several years later in 2013, when a male voice ominously stated "Ob'yavila komanda 135" ('Command 135 announced/initiated'). Rare interruptions such as these have raised more questions than answers, adding to the intrigue surrounding the station's raison d'être.

Radio enthusiasts and conspiracy theorists alike have spent many years pondering the purpose of these transmissions. Some think it's a long-forgotten Soviet-era military communication facility, still functioning but no longer in use. Others wonder if it could be part of an ominous 'dead hand' system – a relic of the Cold War designed to launch an automatic counter-attack should the US annihilate the Russian capital with a nuclear bomb.

A less dramatic hypothesis is that MDZhB is part of a scientific experiment to study parts of the Earth's atmosphere. A paper published in 2008 in the *Russian Journal of Earth Sciences* (entitled 'Information-measuring complex and database of mid-latitude Borok Geophysical Observatory') describes the use of 4,625kHz – the same frequency as The Buzzer – as a carrier wave to investigate the ionosphere with Doppler radio sounding. This requires a constant signal to be broadcast into the atmosphere at a specific known frequency. Perhaps this is all an elaborate

TRANSCEIVER
LSB
USB
GAIN
RF
CAL PULL
AUDIO
FUNCTION
SSB
OFF
AM
CW
TUNE
PA TUNE
BAND
PA LOAD
75 414-0375
76 414-4125
77 414-3875
78 414-4375
79 414-5625
80 414-7125
412.5375
81 412.9375
82 413.1250
83 413.6250
84 413-7625
85 414.6250
86 412.4875
87 413.6125
88 414.1625
89 413-7625
90 46.6300
91 46.67
46.71

cover story to conceal The Buzzer's true purpose, or perhaps those running the station are killing two birds with one stone; a scientific application is not necessarily mutually exclusive from another, more clandestine one. The leading theory, however, is that The Buzzer is a numbers station that is only occasionally activated to transmit secure messages to the Russian military. In which case, the persistent buzzing between the mysterious coded messages is likely to be a way of keeping the frequency occupied so that it can't be used by used by other parties for different purposes. This remains speculation – the Russian government has never admitted to owning or running the station.

Besides the enigma of the signal's perpetual buzz and intermittent codes, the whereabouts of its transmitter has also sparked interest. Numbers station enthusiasts have tried to triangulate its exact position without success, but attempts to trace the signal's source have yielded estimates. Initially, The Buzzer seemed to be coming from a now-abandoned military base in Povarovo, north-west of Moscow. However, after the strange messages in August 2010, the transmitter's apparent location changed, moving away from Moscow and north-west towards St Petersburg. It migrated to the city of Pskov near the Estonian border, suggesting that the strange broadcasts that summer may have been part of the source switchover. The Russian military underwent a structural reorganisation around the same time, with a new command centre being established at St Petersburg. This provided more evidence – if only circumstantial – for MDZhB having some form of military link.

In January 2016, the callsign changed to ZhUOZ, and in January 2019 it changed yet again. Now, various ones are used. The most commonly used sign is ANVF, although 2170, VZhCh, A1JZH and LNR4 have also been used, amongst others. ZhUOZ has not been abandoned, though.

The Buzzer has accumulated a cult-like following, with dedicated listeners tuning in to its almost hypnotic drones, recording its every announcement and debating what it could possibly mean. But each coded transmission or random interruption just raises more questions; the case of The Buzzer only gets only gets curiouser and curiouser.

THE BUZZER'S SISTER STATIONS

MDZHB ISN'T THE ONLY UNSETTLING SIGNAL BEING BROADCAST FROM RUSSIA

Two other shortwave broadcasts have some striking similarities to the infamous Buzzer, known as The Pip and The Squeaky Wheel.

The Pip has been active since at least 1986 and broadcasts regular monotonous, electronic beeps all day, every day. It is occasionally interrupted by coded voice messages before the pips resume.

The Squeaky Wheel has been broadcasting since at least 2000 and its original interval sign was repeated 'squeaks' of two different tones. However, in 2008 it changed to two tones of electronic beeps, no longer sounding particularly like its namesake.

Both stations differ from The Buzzer in that they switch between two frequencies, one for daytime broadcasts and another for nighttime. Some avid listeners suggest that the three stations are linked somehow; perhaps part of the same system for domestic military communications. But only its operators and the signals' intended recipients know for sure.

■ The similarities between The Buzzer, The Pip and The Squeaky Wheel have led to speculation as to whether they are all individual parts of a single system

THE LINCOLNSHIRE POACHER

HOW A JAUNTY ENGLISH FOLK SONG BECAME SYNONYMOUS WITH BRITISH ESPIONAGE

Royal Air Force
AKROTIRI
NON-PASS HOLDER
PASS HOLDERS
CARS
HEAVY VEHICLES

■ Radio direction detecting equipment suggested that the RAF Akrotiri base was the source of the infamous Lincolnshire Poacher broadcasts

YEARS ACTIVE:
1970S – 2008

One of the most famous numbers stations was the Lincolnshire Poacher. This strange station got its name from a traditional English folk song, the first few bars of which were used to bookend each broadcast. The melody was eerily played out several times as the signal's interval sign, produced by what sounds like a synthesised calliope instrument.

In every communication, once the tune ended, a recording of a woman with an upper-class British accent repeated a five-number sequence. It's thought that this code was to identify the intended recipient of the subsequent message, which would follow after three chimes. The main messages consisted of a long series of numbers (always 200 groups of five-digit figures), which took around 45 minutes to deliver in full.

These communications would take place every day between noon and 10pm (UTC). It's thought that the regularity of the broadcasts added an extra layer of secrecy. Transmitting on a regular schedule and sending messages of the same length each time meant that nothing was given away. If messages were typically five minutes long, but out of the blue an hour-long broadcast was made, it would indicate to anyone listening in that something was afoot. Consistency gave the impression that nothing was out of the ordinary, regardless of whether the coded content was nothing to report, or a vital mission.

With specialised radio direction finding equipment, avid Lincolnshire Poacher eavesdroppers hoping to find its transmission source claimed to have tracked it to the RAF Akrotiri base in Cyprus. It's believed to have been used by British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) to broadcast messages to agents based across the Middle East, but this theory has never been confirmed by the intelligence agency.

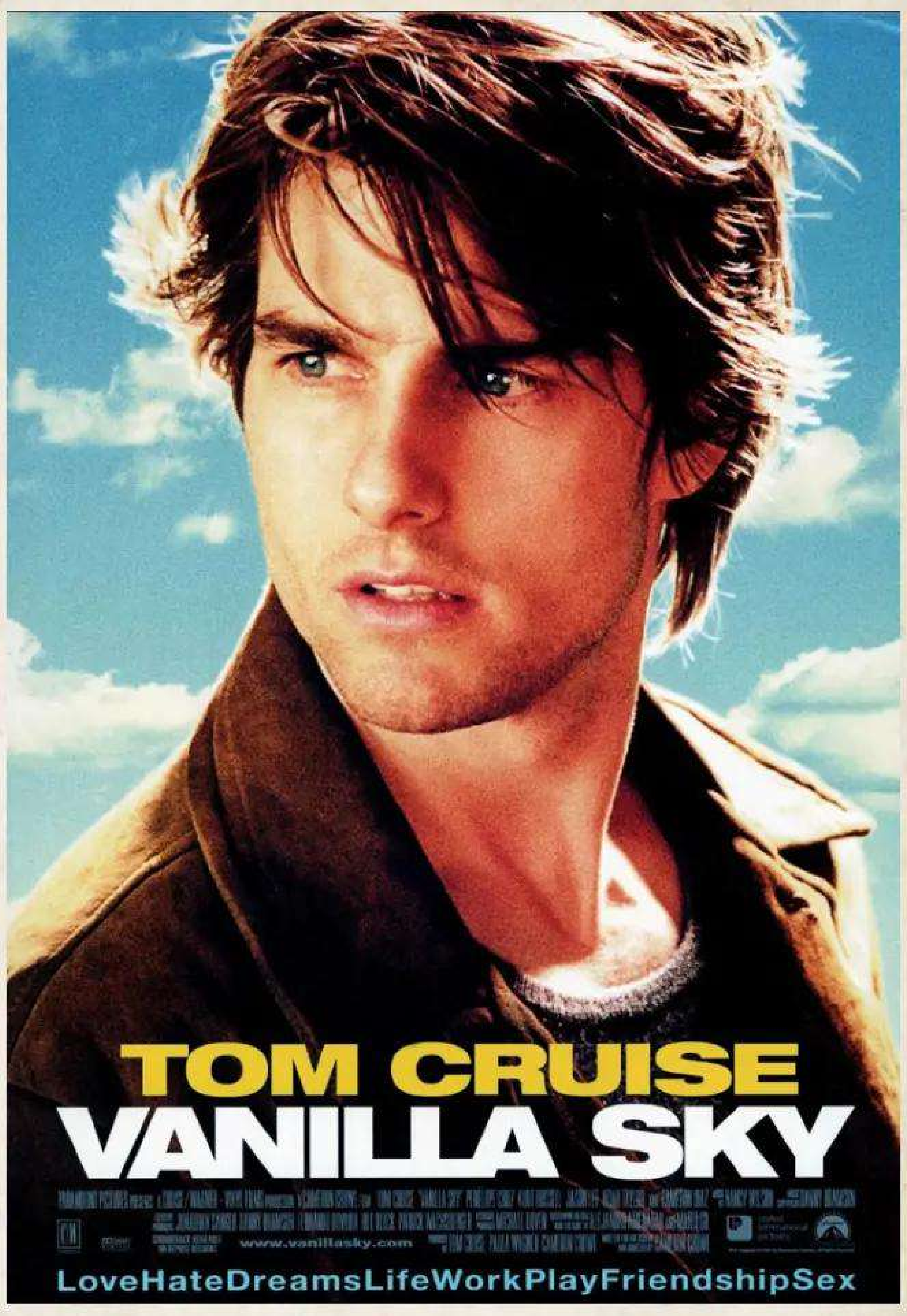
A very similar station known as Cherry Ripe was thought to have been broadcast from Guam, before being moved to Australia's Northern Territory. The only major difference was Cherry Ripe's interval sign – a synthesised version of the English folk song of the same name. Apart from that, it followed the same format, with announcements made by the same voice, so presumably it too was run by MI6. The Lincolnshire Poacher stopped in June 2008 and Cherry Ripe about 18 months later.

> "CONSISTENCY GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT NOTHING WAS OUT OF THE ORDINARY, REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE CODED CONTENT ACTUALLY WAS"

THE CONET PROJECT

DISCOVER THE GREATEST HITS COLLECTION OF SPY RADIO IN AN EXTENSIVE ARCHIVE OF CLOAK-AND-DAGGER BROADCASTS

In 1997, a four-CD compilation of the obscure recordings from numbers stations was released by the record label Irdial Discs. The 150 different station samples were put together by numbers station aficionado Akin Fernandez, who'd been captivated by the bizarre broadcasts since he discovered them while browsing the airwaves in 1992. The name, 'The Conet Project', came from the frequent use of the word 'conet' (Czech for 'end') in many of the broadcasts. It was rereleased as a five-disc edition in 2013 with one-time pad samples. At the time, the CDs – and the accompanying booklet that speculated about each transmission's purpose – were a niche product among shortwave radio enthusiasts. With the internet age, however, it became easier for information about these broadcasts to be shared and their popularity grew to cult status. The increased interest in these mystery transmissions led to a UK government spokesperson addressing the issue: "People shouldn't be mystified by them," she told the *Daily Telegraph* in 2008. "They're not, shall we say, for public consumption." It's the closest thing to an admission from an official source regarding a numbers station that there has ever been.



■ Audio extracts from The Conet Project have been used in popular culture, including the 2001 psychological thriller *Vanilla Sky*

OTHER RADIO STATIONS

SWEDISH RHAPSODY

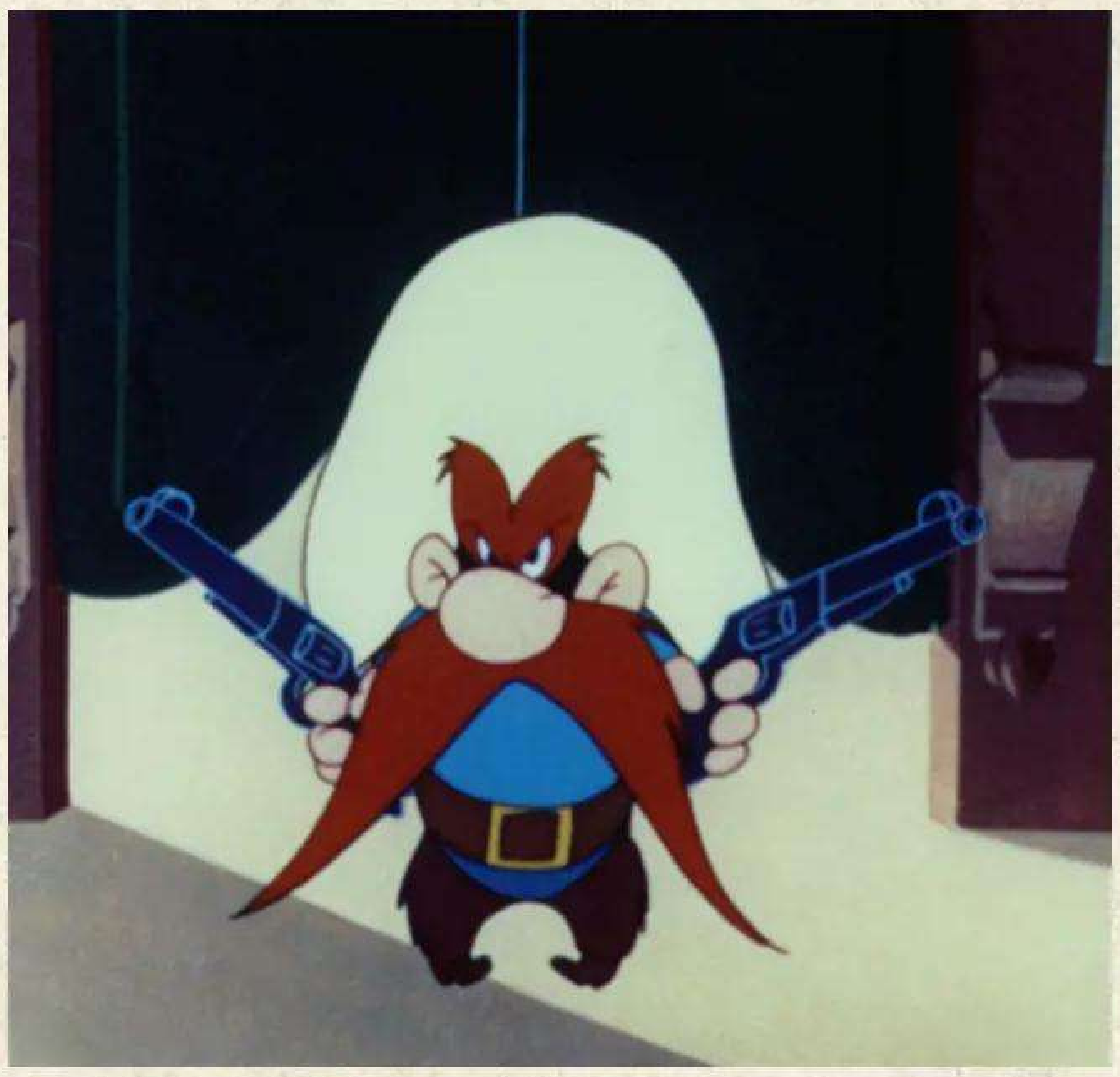
YEARS ACTIVE: 1950S – 1998
SUSPECTED SOURCE/ORIGIN: POLAND

An ice cream truck melody and the disembodied voice of a little girl reciting coded messages in German made for one of the creepiest numbers stations on the airwaves. It used a tune from Swedish Rhapsody No. 1 by Swedish composer Hugo Alfvén as an interval sign.

YOSEMITE SAM

YEARS ACTIVE: 2004 – PRESENT
SUSPECTED SOURCE/ORIGIN: NEW MEXICO, US

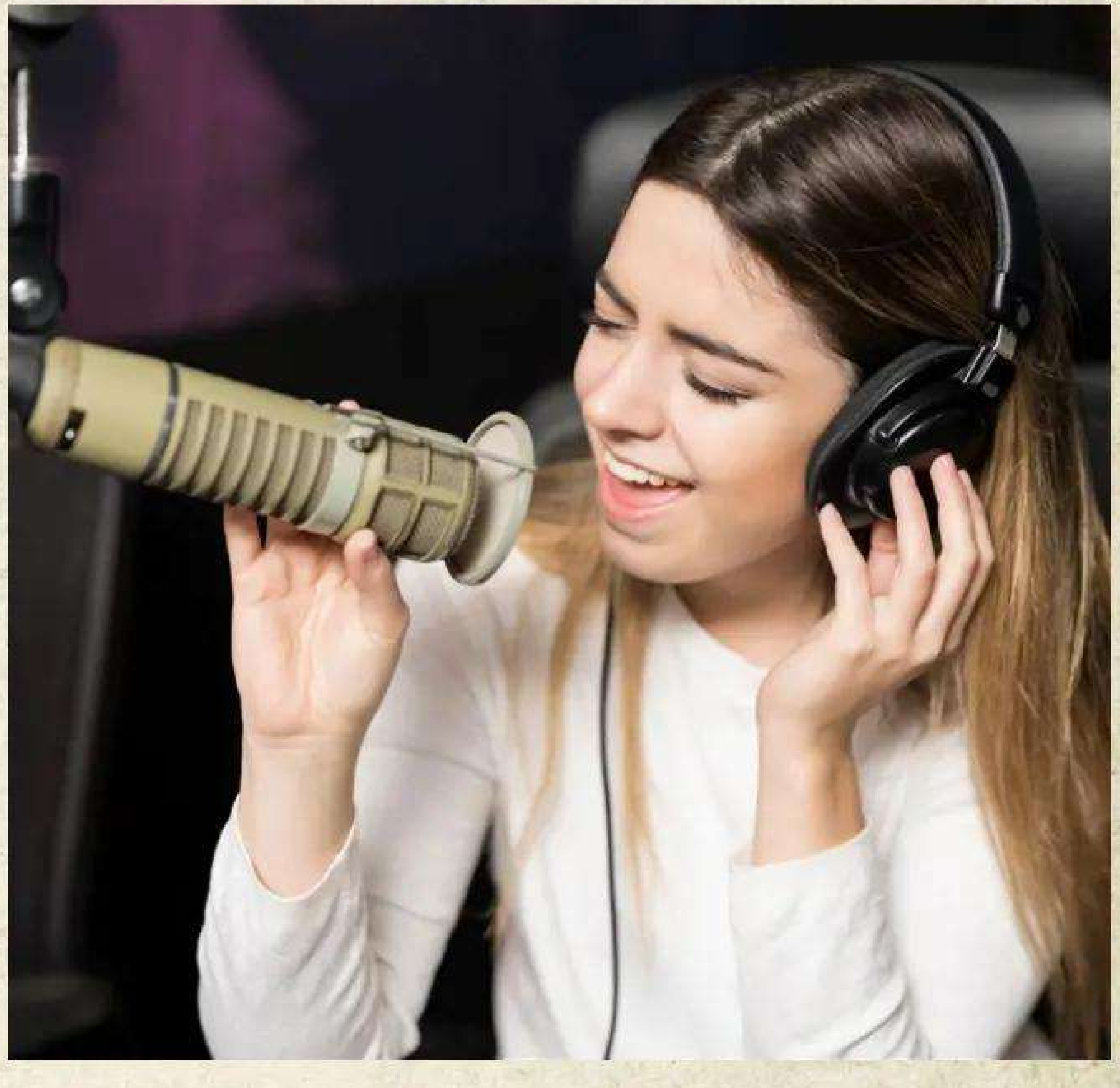
This baffling signal consists of a short ‘buzz’ of a compressed data burst lasting 0.8 seconds, followed by a clip of the cartoon character Yosemite Sam shouting “Varmint, I’mma gonna blow you to smithereens!” – a quote from an episode of Bugs Bunny, *Bunker Hill Bunny*, that was first broadcast in 1949.



THE CUBAN BABBLER

YEARS ACTIVE: UNKNOWN – 2016
SUSPECTED SOURCE/ORIGIN: CUBA

This station earned its nickname from its bizarre delivery style. The announcers on The Cuban Babbler didn’t read strings of code, they sang them – fast – to what seemed to be improvised melodies. Have pity on the intended recipient trying to copy the message down!



THE BORED MAN

YEARS ACTIVE: UNKNOWN – 1998
SUSPECTED SOURCE/ORIGIN: CUBA

The Bored Man sounded as disinterested in his role as announcer as his nickname suggests. He would often get things wrong and then have to backtrack or restart transmissions to correct himself. Sometimes listeners also overheard laughter in the background during his otherwise dull broadcasts.

MOSSAD

YEARS ACTIVE: 1960S/70S – 2011
SUSPECTED SOURCE/ORIGIN: ISRAEL

Unlike most other numbers stations, the signal nicknamed Mossad mostly used NATO phonetic letters rather than numbers. Samples from this station’s messages were used by the American band Wilco on their record ‘Yankee Hotel Foxtrot’, and also inspired the album title.

H
HOTEL

F
FOXTROT

Y
YANKEE

Image source: Getty Images, Shutterstock

DEATH IN THE ICE VALLEY

When the body of a young woman was discovered at Isdalen in Bergen, Norway, the police verdict was probable suicide, but that didn't stop the barrage of rumours that followed. So who was the Isdal Woman, and what was she doing in the Ice Valley over 50 years ago?

WORDS **JOANNA ELPHICK**

The morning of 29 November 1970 was bitterly cold as a father and his two little girls decided to take a long walk through the Isdalen Valley. The day had started clear and bright as they strolled around the picturesque Lake Svartediket, but the girls were hungry for an adventure so they decided to hike up into the mountains. It wasn't long before the children had wandered away from their father, scrabbling up the scree slopes and over the large boulders. Although they were now out of sight, their father was not concerned since he knew his girls would stay out of mischief, but when the screams of his eldest daughter echoed through the valley, his heart began to pound. Having followed the sound of sobbing through the trees, up the slope and onto an outcrop of rocks, he became aware of a sickening smell. The girls had discovered a body in the forest and the stench was that of burning flesh. Little did he realise that his daughters' gruesome discovery would spark a world-wide investigation and a tantalising mystery that still remains unsolved over 50 years later.

Body on the rocks

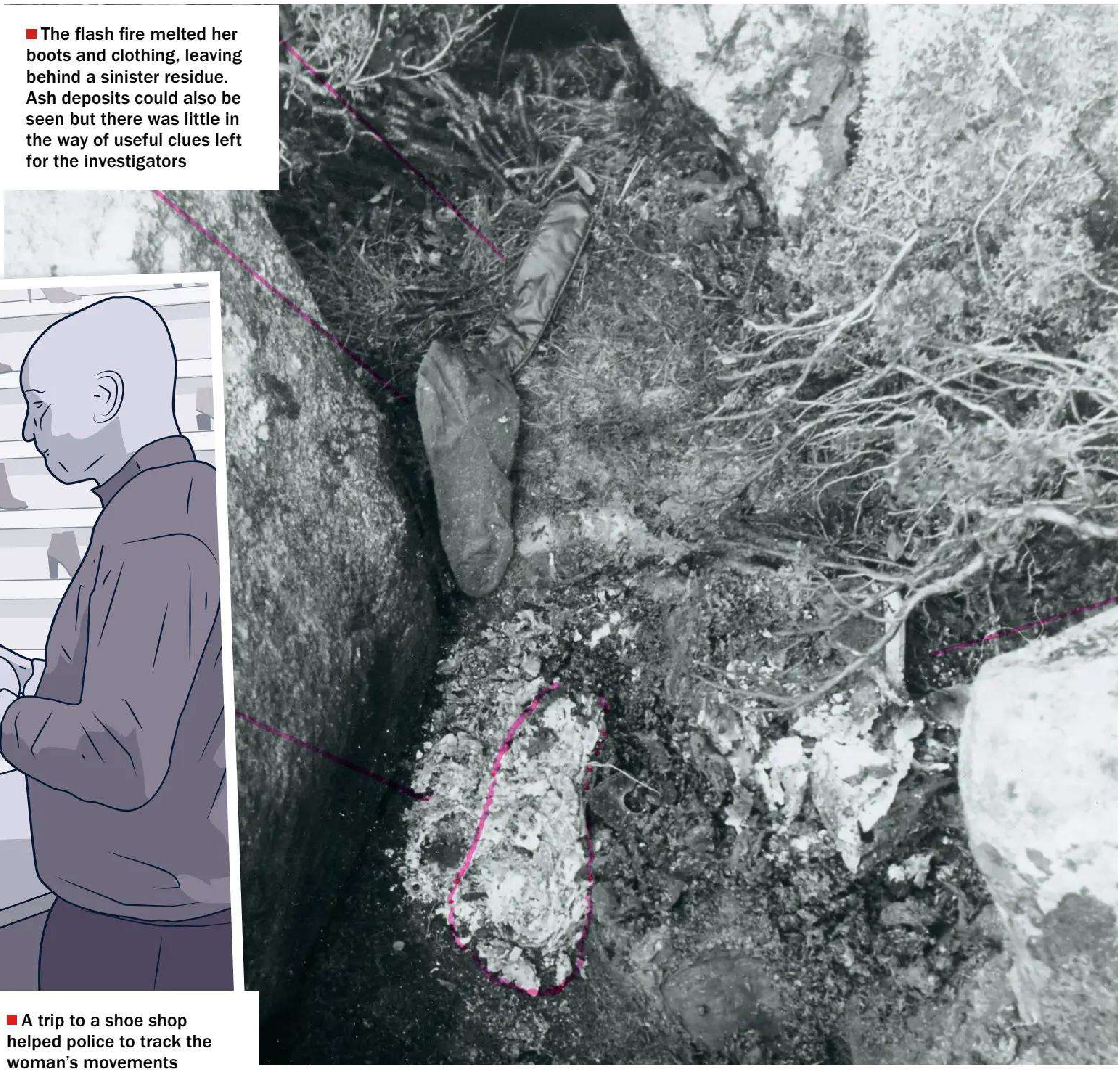
The terrified family made their way back down the slopes, all the way to the Bergen Police Station, where they told police officers of their shocking find. On reaching the rocky outpost after a 45-minute hike up through the Isdalen Valley, police lawyer Carl Halvor Aas was surprised to find anyone up there in such a remote location. After all, it was off the hiking trail, and the only reason the body had been found was because of two intrepid children. Whatever could the deceased individual have been doing so far from the town?

From the very beginning the situation seemed highly irregular. The body belonged to that of a young, semi-naked woman. She was discovered lying on her back with her head bent backwards against some stones and her arms bent in front of her. She had been badly burnt and was covered in soot. Remnants of clothing still clung to various parts of her body and, although most of her hair had been destroyed, a ponytail, tied with blue ribbon, could still be identified at the back of her head. Various items had been carefully laid out, some of which had been damaged by the heat from the fire, while others remained untouched. However, it was the positioning of the personal items, including a watch, some earrings and a ring, that concerned the investigator, since it appeared as if a bizarre ceremony of sorts had taken place. The lingering smell of petroleum, soaked into a brown fur hat, could still be detected, mixed in with the cloying stench of burnt flesh, but there were no visible remains of an open fire. What kind of terrible fate had befallen this woman?

An autopsy carried out upon the unknown woman the following day merely raised further questions. She was estimated to have been approximately 30 years of age but her charred face was unrecognisable. The teeth, however, showed a great deal of work, with at least 14 having been root-filled while a number of molars had gold caps. Such dental work was highly unusual in Norway at that time. A small bruise could be seen on her neck, but the autopsy concluded that she had died from a combination of inhaling carbon-monoxide and an overdose of phenobarbital: she had ingested up to 70 tablets. The soot discovered within her lungs showed that she had still been alive as her body burned. Even with the dulling effect of the drugs in her system, it must have been an agonising death. The coroner took fingerprints and removed her jaw bone and teeth for further examination before ruling her death as a probable suicide.

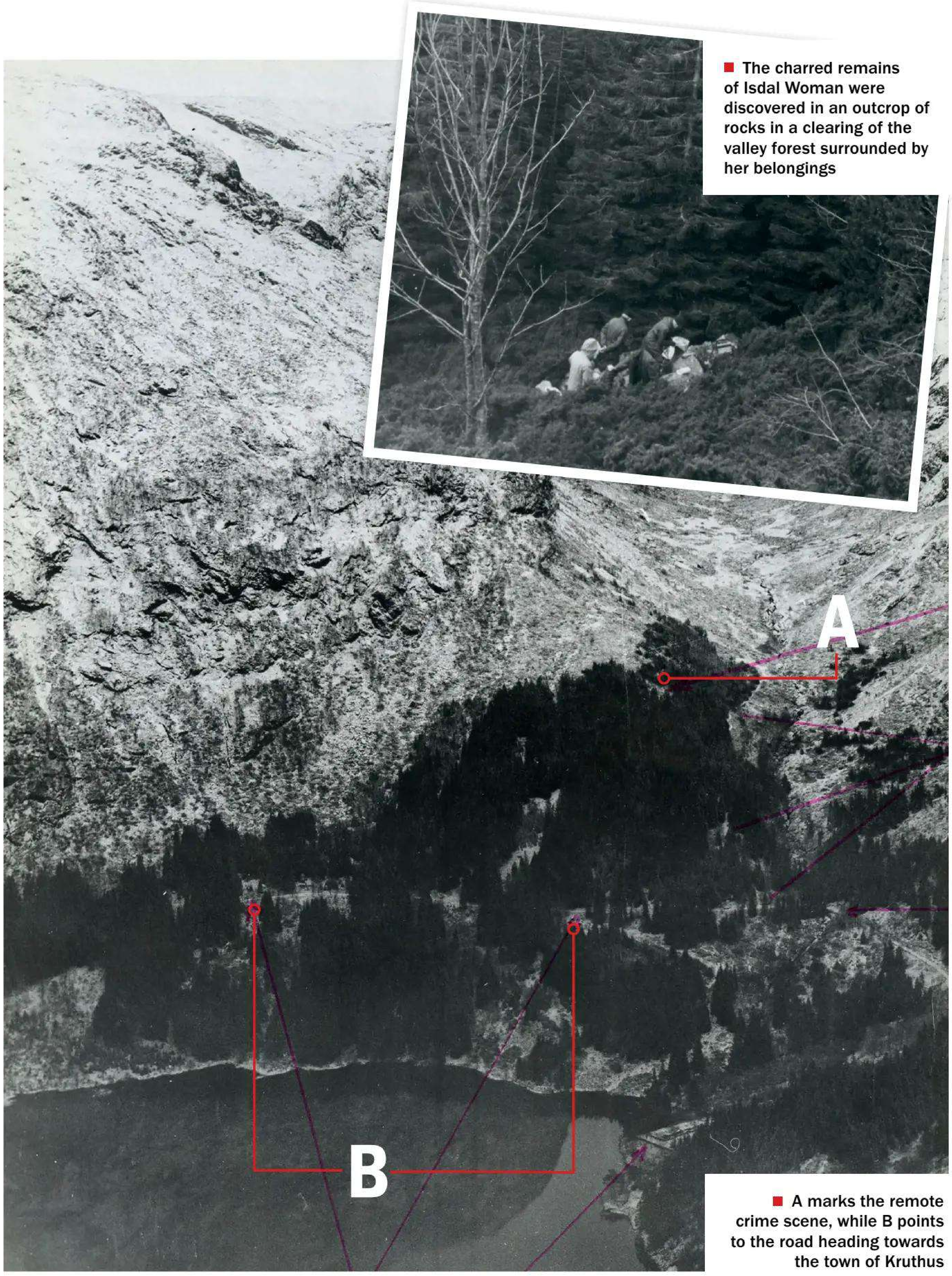
Meanwhile, a closer examination of the articles found at the scene caused further intrigue. All labels had been removed from the surviving pieces of clothing, while any identifying

> "THE SOOT DISCOVERED WITHIN HER LUNGS SHOWED THAT SHE HAD STILL BEEN ALIVE AS HER BODY BURNED"



The flash fire melted her boots and clothing, leaving behind a sinister residue. Ash deposits could also be seen but there was little in the way of useful clues left for the investigators

A trip to a shoe shop helped police to track the woman's movements



The charred remains of Isdal Woman were discovered in an outcrop of rocks in a clearing of the valley forest surrounded by her belongings

A marks the remote crime scene, while B points to the road heading towards the town of Kruthus

marks on her purse, passport case and some drinking bottles had been deliberately scratched off. Someone had made it all but impossible to identify the victim. The question was, had she erased herself from the scene or had somebody else obliterated identifying marks. And if so, why?

Suitcases at the station

With no obvious way to identify the 'Isdal Woman', Bergen police issued an artist's impression based on the autopsy report in an appeal for eyewitnesses. Had anyone seen a woman aged between 25 and 40, with dark hair pulled back in a ponytail and tied with a blue ribbon? She would have been approximately 1.6 metres (5 foot 4.5 inches) tall with a round face and brown eyes. Now the media was involved, the police hoped that they would catch a break. When the Bergen Railway Station called them nine days later, it looked as if that longed-for opening had arrived.

Apparently a woman fitting that description had deposited two suitcases, one black, the other tan, on 23 November, six days before the 'Isdal Woman' had been discovered. No one had returned to collect them. The police were optimistic that somewhere within those bags there would be a clue that would enable them to identify the body and crack the mystery. Unfortunately, the contents only made matters more confusing. The black suitcase contained 39 objects, including items of clothing, a clothes brush marked 'Made in Germany', a steel embossed spoon, a purse and a round mirror – nothing strange or untoward so far. However, it also included a bag of pottery clay, a laboratory knife with spare blades, an envelope filled with German marks and Norwegian kroner, a train time table, various maps, and a series of coded messages written inside a notebook.

The tan suitcase was equally baffling, as it contained among other things a variety of foreign coins from Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Norway and England. Along with the usual female paraphernalia, the suitcase included a variety of wigs and non-prescription glasses. All labels had been carefully removed from the clothing. Even the sticker on a tube of eczema cream had been peeled off. Even so it was soon established that an embossed spoon matched cutlery discovered close to the dead woman, while a partial fingerprint removed from a pair of sunglasses matched those taken during the autopsy. The suitcases clearly belonged to the mystery woman.

The release of a number of items to the public, including the boots she was wearing at the time of her death and an umbrella discovered at the scene, resulted in a little more information coming to light. A shop assistant from a shoe shop in Stavanger recalled selling some boots and an umbrella to an English-speaking woman with brown hair tied in a ponytail on 18 November. Using his detailed description of the mystery woman, the police tracked down the hotel that she was staying at. Apparently her name was Fenella Lorch and she was from Belgium. Sadly, the breakthrough was short lived, since 'Fenella Lorch' did not exist and the address given at the hotel check-in was entirely fictitious.

'N 18 B'

With nothing else to go on, the investigators decided to concentrate on the coded messages inside the notebook, discovered in the black suitcase. It didn't take them long to realise that the seemingly random lines of letters and numbers were in fact a list of dates and places that the woman had travelled to. 'N 18 B' clearly meant November 18, Bergen. 'O22 O28 P' suggested that she had visited Paris between 22 and 28 of October. With the exception of one entry, 'ML23 N MM', which has never been broken, all the codes were cracked and police officers began visiting hotels in the hope that they could map out her movements and discover her true identity.

It appeared that the Isdal woman found Bergen of particular interest, since she had repeatedly visited the town. She had also stopped in many other European locations, including Stavanger, Trondheim, Paris and Oslo. Apparently, she had been a very well-travelled lady who had kept impeccable records of her movements. However, there were periods of time that were not accounted for.

After leaving Basel in Switzerland on 3 April, there was no account of her whereabouts until the next entry on 23 April when she resurfaced in Frankfurt, leaving 20 days unaccounted for. This happened again on 18 July, when she disappeared for three months. It seemed that every time she vanished she had previously made her way to a place coded as 'R'. Police believed that this was most likely her secret base or possibly her actual home, but what did the R stand for? This was never established, although it most likely meant Rome, Rostock, Reims, Rouen or Rotterdam.

Following the trail of breadcrumbs

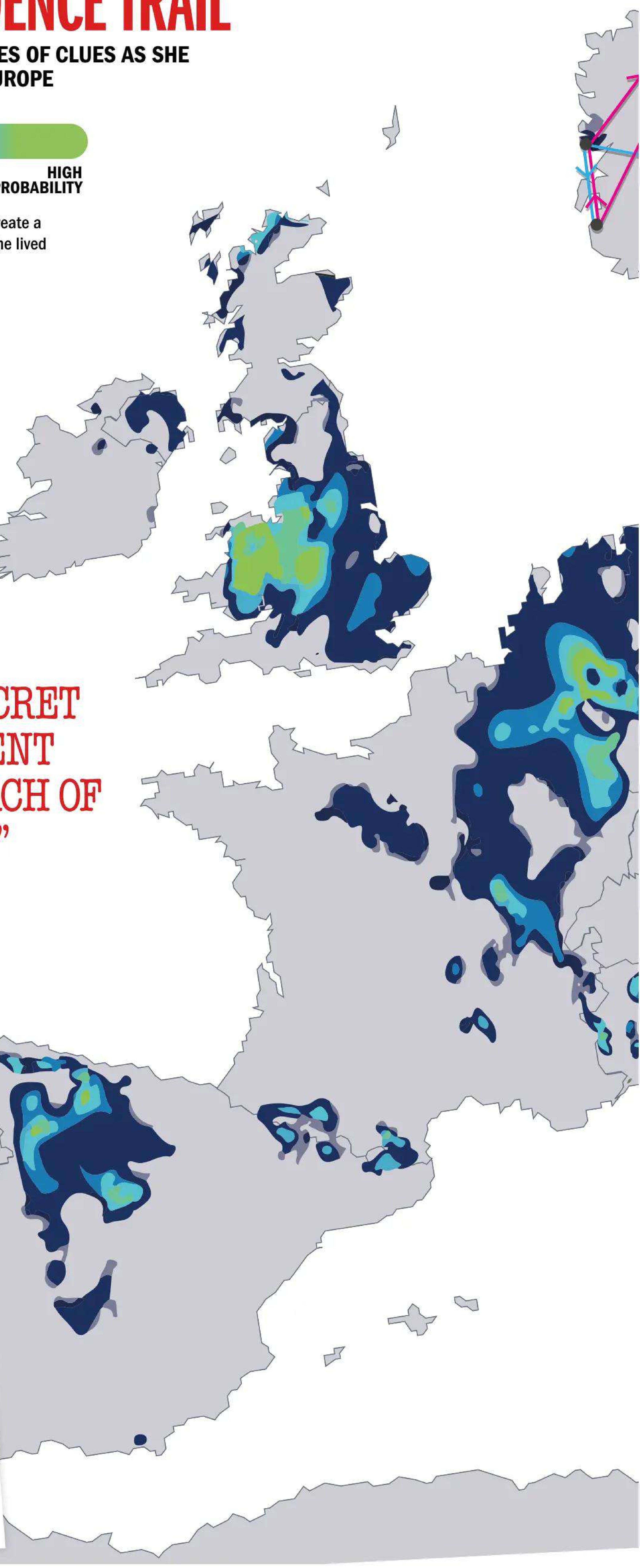
Using the secret code as their guide, the police sent officers to each of the locations in the hope of discovering her true identity, but, once again, the more information they gathered, the more confusing the case became. It seemed that the woman repeatedly chose hotels in the mid-price range and always asked for the cheapest room. Reception staff all recognised the drawing of the Isdal Woman despite the fact that she wore a variety of wigs, but it appeared that Fenella Lorch was not her only alias. In fact, she had used many different identities, each with a unique backstory. Her occupation altered as often as her name and date of birth, but her nationality remained the same. Each time she claimed to be Belgian, although the reception forms were filled out in either German or, on occasion, French. Some hotel staff heard her speaking English badly. It seemed Claudia Tielt, Vera Schlosseneck, Elisabeth Leenhouwer and Genevieve Lancier, to name a few, were all the same person, but why she was travelling back and forth across Europe was still a mystery.

The hotels that she stayed at in Norway were all situated close to the sea. Could this be relevant ? Whatever she was up to, she appeared to have an endless supply of forged passports and corresponding currencies alongside her variety of wigs and aliases. Whoever she was, she wasn't your average tourist.

The suitcases, located at the railway station after her death, were equally strange, since it seemed that they would appear and disappear between hotel visits. Some hotel staff distinctly remembered two suitcases when she arrived and only one when she checked out, only for them to both be spotted at the following hotel. Was she keeping them hidden or was someone else keeping hold of them as she travelled? Her movements and bizarre behaviour baffled the police and soon piqued the interest of the Norwegian Police Surveillance Service, or POTS.

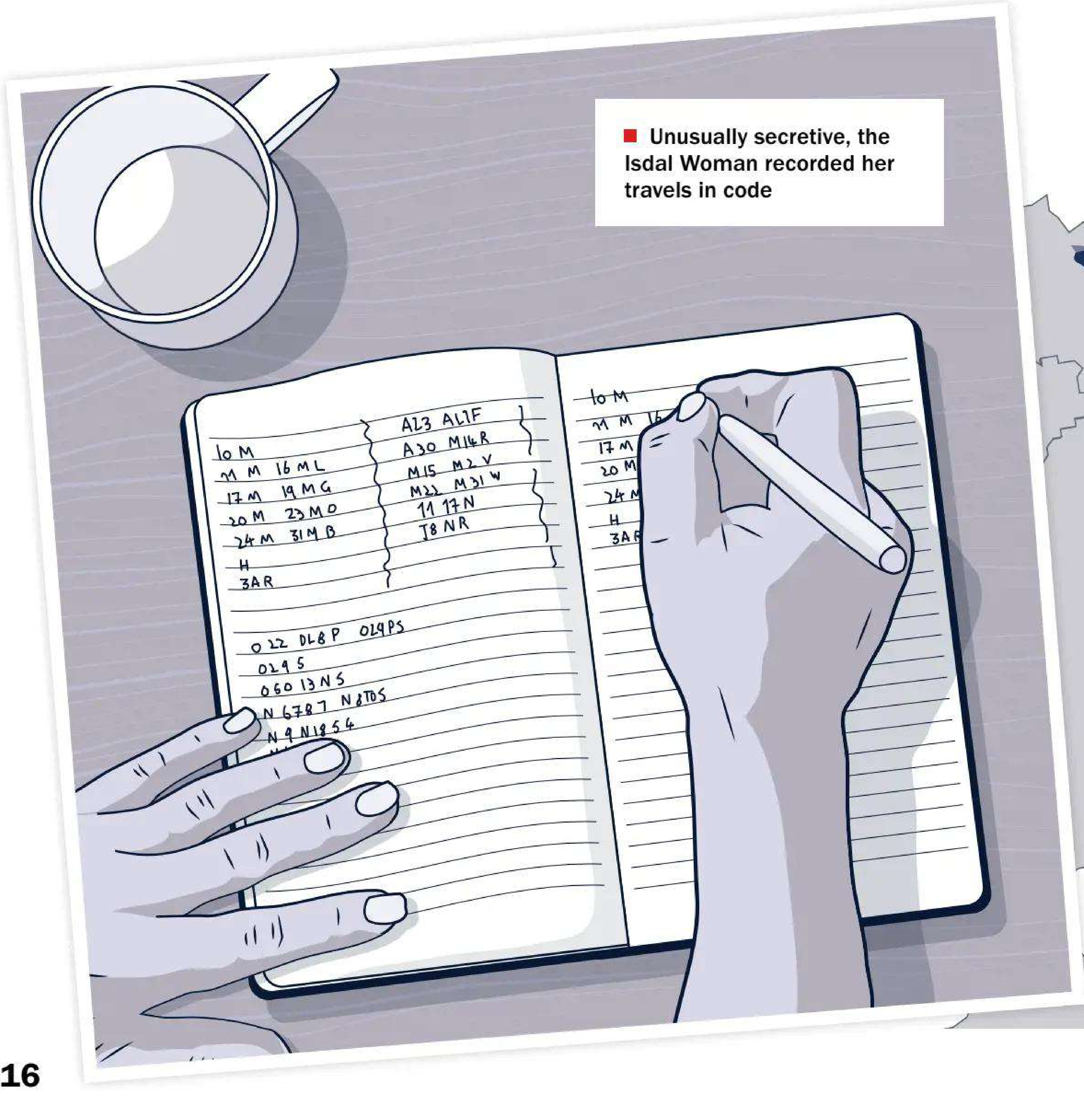
ON THE EVIDENCE TRAIL

ISDAL WOMAN LEFT A SERIES OF CLUES AS SHE MADE HER WAY ACROSS EUROPE

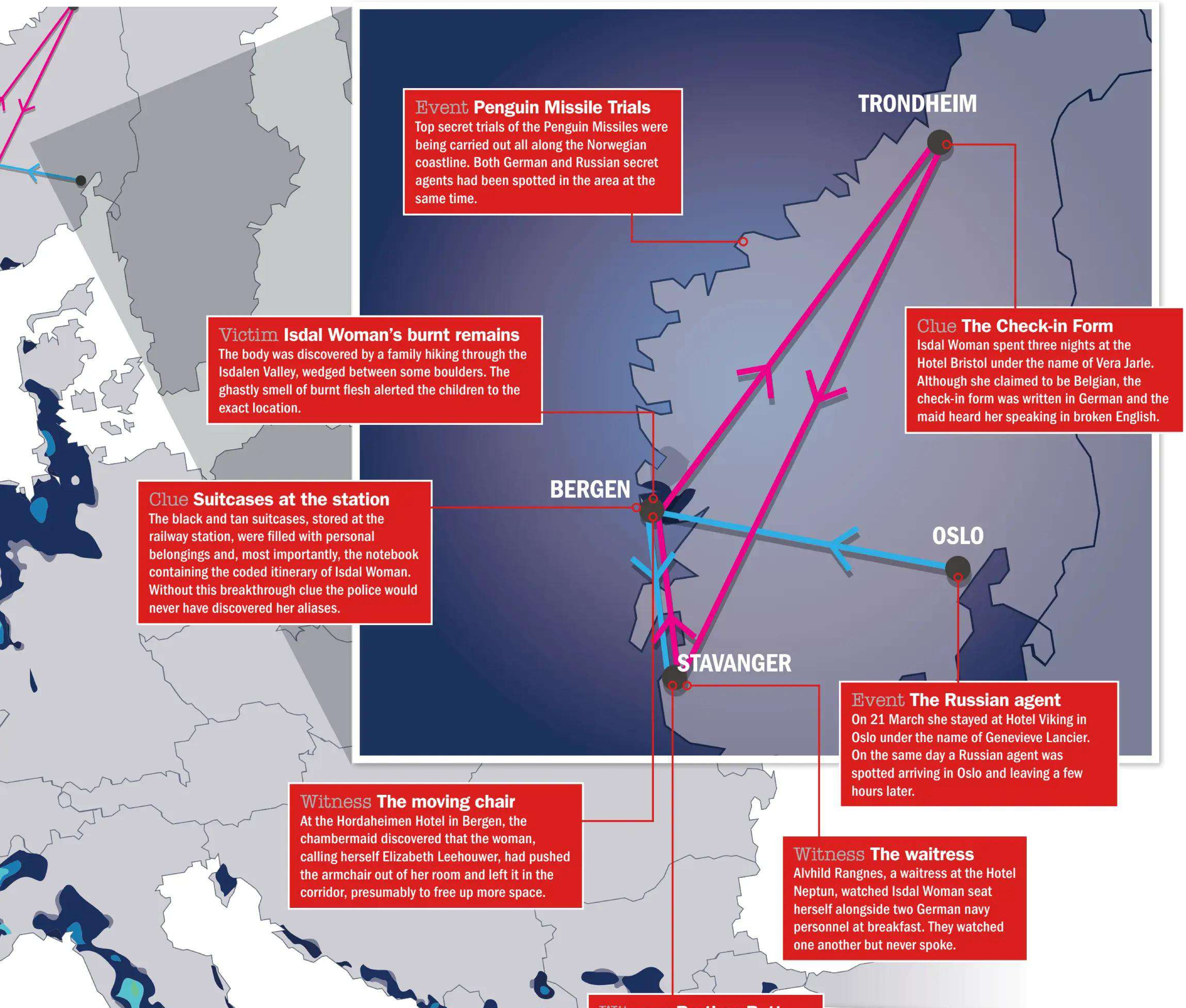


Forensic investigators were able to create a heat map showing the likely places she lived when her teeth formed

> " USING THE SECRET CODE, POLICE SENT OFFICERS TO EACH OF THE LOCATIONS"



Unusually secretive, the Isdal Woman recorded her travels in code



Event **Penguin Missile Trials**
Top secret trials of the Penguin Missiles were being carried out all along the Norwegian coastline. Both German and Russian secret agents had been spotted in the area at the same time.

Clue **The Check-in Form**
Isdal Woman spent three nights at the Hotel Bristol under the name of Vera Jarle. Although she claimed to be Belgian, the check-in form was written in German and the maid heard her speaking in broken English.

Victim **Isdal Woman's burnt remains**
The body was discovered by a family hiking through the Isdalen Valley, wedged between some boulders. The ghastly smell of burnt flesh alerted the children to the exact location.

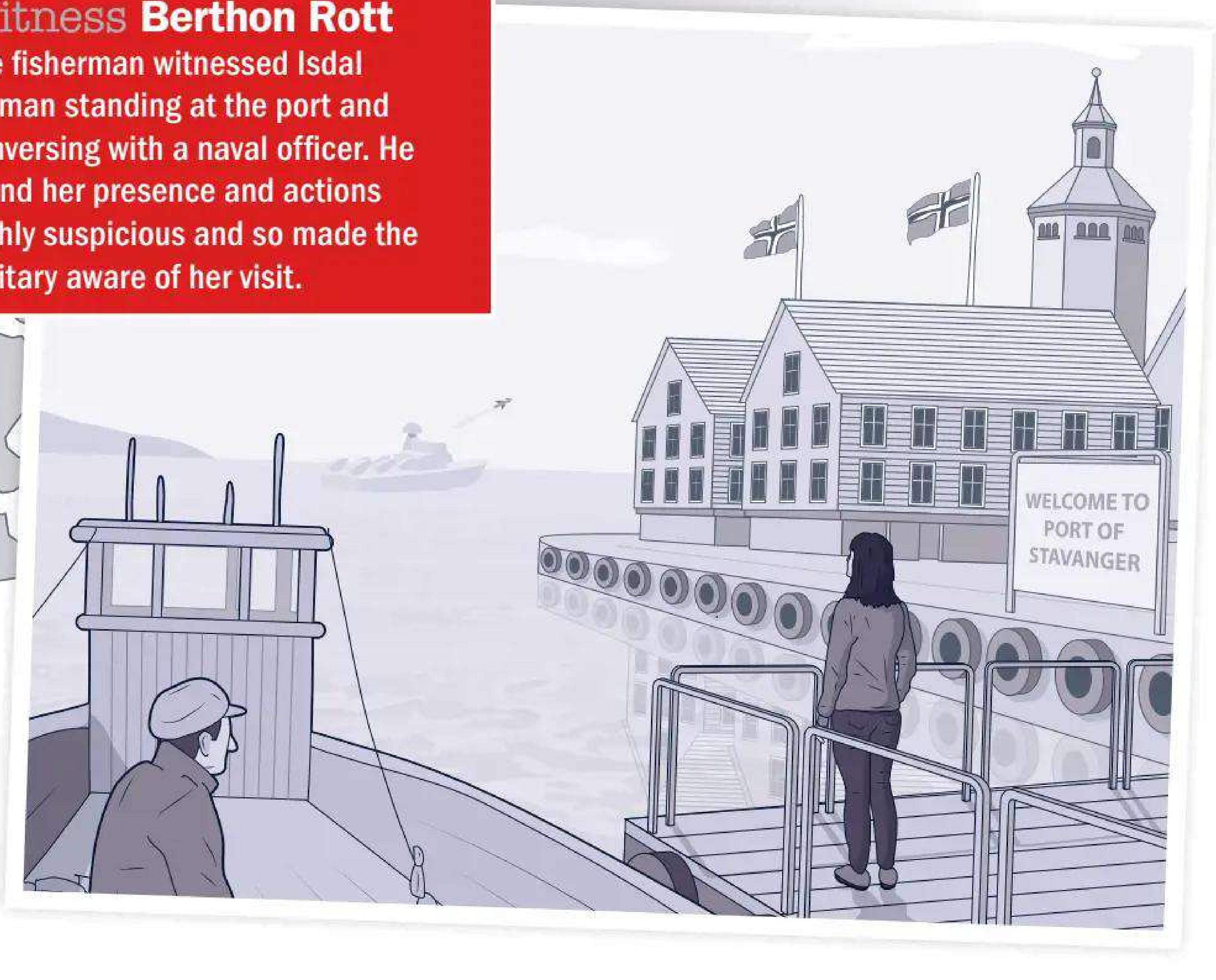
Clue **Suitcases at the station**
The black and tan suitcases, stored at the railway station, were filled with personal belongings and, most importantly, the notebook containing the coded itinerary of Isdal Woman. Without this breakthrough clue the police would never have discovered her aliases.

Event **The Russian agent**
On 21 March she stayed at Hotel Viking in Oslo under the name of Genevieve Lancier. On the same day a Russian agent was spotted arriving in Oslo and leaving a few hours later.

Witness **The moving chair**
At the Hordaheimen Hotel in Bergen, the chambermaid discovered that the woman, calling herself Elizabeth Leehouwer, had pushed the armchair out of her room and left it in the corridor, presumably to free up more space.

Witness **The waitress**
Alvhild Rangnes, a waitress at the Hotel Neptun, watched Isdal Woman seat herself alongside two German navy personnel at breakfast. They watched one another but never spoke.

Witness **Berthon Rott**
The fisherman witnessed Isdal Woman standing at the port and conversing with a naval officer. He found her presence and actions highly suspicious and so made the military aware of her visit.



THE INVESTIGATION

WAS THE ISDAL WOMAN A FOREIGN SPY? NORWEGIAN POLICE CERTAINLY THOUGHT SO

While Norway's police officers were retracing the unknown woman's steps, the Surveillance Service and the security department of the Armed Forces High Command, or FO/S, were undertaking a secret investigation of their own. It seemed that the woman's erratic itinerary coincided with key secret naval exercises out at sea. Members of the Norwegian Defence Research team often stayed in nearby hotels, and the catering staff recalled seeing the elegant woman occasionally sitting with a group of well-dressed gentlemen at breakfast.

The Norwegian military had been involved in the development of cutting-edge naval strike missiles known as 'Penguins'. This was part of a top-secret weapons programme built in conjunction with several other NATO-allied nations, and the Defence Research Institute was one of the key players. The Penguins incorporated an advanced management system that allowed them to search for enemy warships, making them of great interest to the Russians. They feared this new level of technological warfare and needed to know how it worked so they could develop a way to avoid them out at sea.

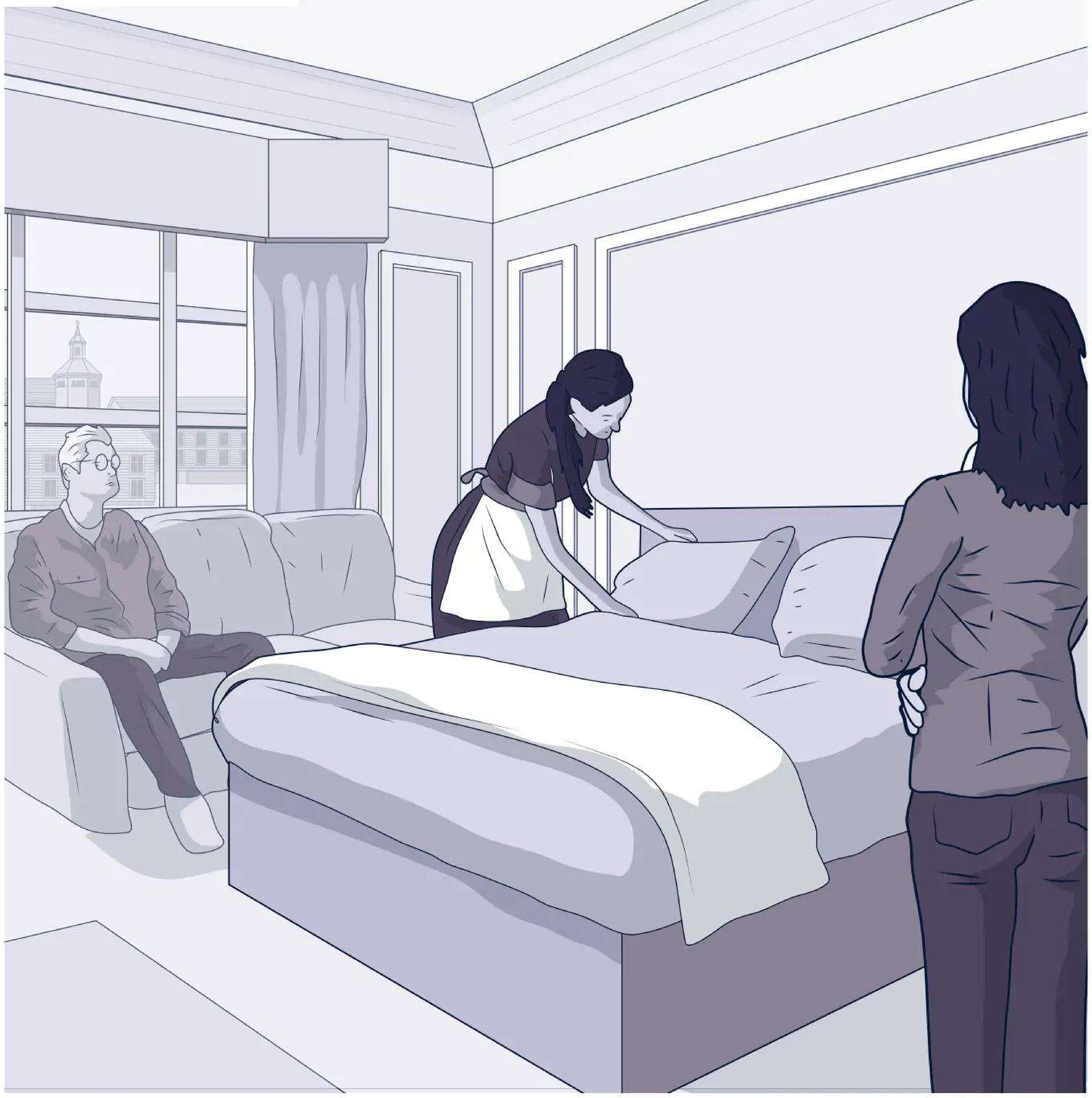
It seemed that every time the Norwegians attempted to test their capabilities, a Soviet ship would appear. Somebody was tipping them off. East German boats, pretending to be trawlers fishing under the Warsaw Pact, would also appear around this time, sailing in vessels equipped with suspicious aerials. Local fishermen were paid to look the other way while the missiles were being tested and to report any unusual visitors to the quayside. One such fisherman, Berthon Rott, noticed a pretty young woman standing on the dock and flirting with the naval officers. Years later, his wife claimed that Berthon had been given a gun to protect his family from 'strangers' after he had spoken to the military about the woman. Clearly they had taken his account seriously and felt that he was potentially in danger.

So, was the woman a secret foreign agent? The clues strongly suggested that she might have been. It was rare for a single woman to travel across Europe at that time, and her behaviour was both unusual and suspicious. Hotels required visitors to show their passports on arrival, and, since she used a host of aliases, she must have possessed corresponding false documents. Either she forged them herself, which might explain the strange crafting knife found in her belongings, or she used a third party to create them for her. Some forms were completed in German and yet she consistently claimed to be Belgian. The wigs and secret assignations with various men only added to the mystery. She never appeared to be having a good time, rarely smiled and often acted in a nervous and furtive manner.

Gradually, the Surveillance Service gathered eyewitness accounts alongside those obtained by the Bergen police, but when asked they flatly denied any interest in the case. Chambermaids were quietly interviewed and information was duly noted. Apparently, she would go out early in the morning with clean boots on, but by the time she returned the boots would be caked in mud. She never told anyone where she was going and always wore clothes more suitable for a shopping trip than a hike in the countryside. On the evening before her death, a member of the hotel staff discovered a young man in her room. The woman seemed upset but neither of them spoke. They merely got up and left when the maid came in. It was all very interesting, but as far as the police were concerned it amounted to nothing. The Surveillance Service remained silent, and any information they gathered was never shared.

Presumably, Isdal Woman was behaving in an equally mysterious manner in the many other countries that she visited, but at no point did the individual police forces across Europe join together. Eventually the police ran out of leads and the case was left to gather dust.

■ Who was the Isdal Woman with when the hotel maid interrupted them?

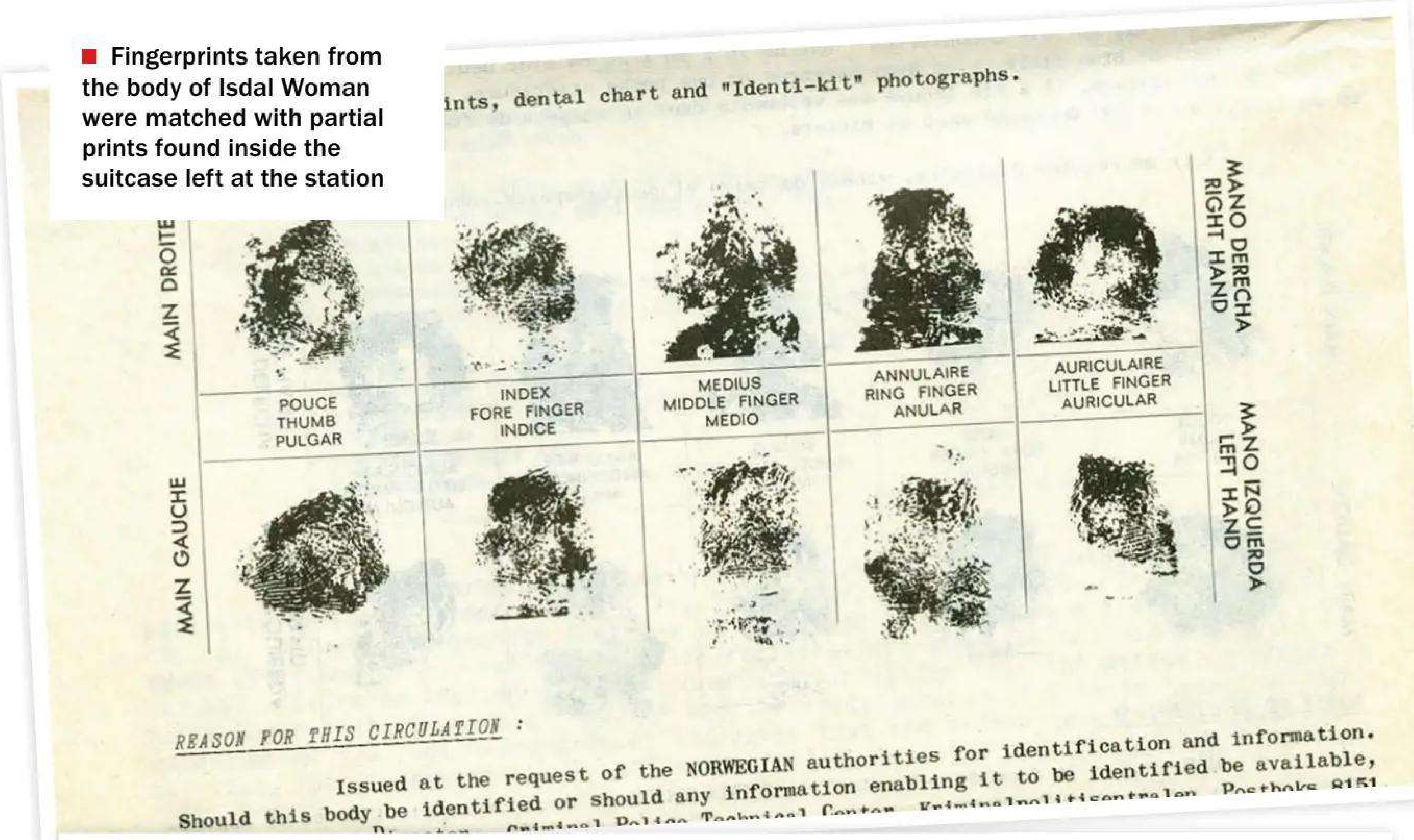


ANNELIESSE

In 2017, 71-year-old Jon Late came forward with a strange story. He claimed to have had a relationship with a woman in 1970 and, on reflection, believed that she may have been the Isdal Woman.

It was while working at a hotel in Odda that he met a woman named 'Anneliesse' who took a temporary post as the hotel receptionist. Photographs taken by Late show a dark-haired woman in her early 30s, wearing a white shirt, blue sweater and trousers similar to those left by the body of Isdal Woman. He recalled that she was secretive and often wore wigs with the hair pulled back in a blue ribbon. Her time at the hotel coincided with the missing details of Isdal Woman's travel plans, deciphered in the mysterious coded messages.

"THE WOMAN'S ITINERARY COINCIDED WITH KEY SECRET NAVAL EXERCISES"



ints, dental chart and "Identi-kit" photographs.

MAIN DROITE

MANO DERECHA
RIGHT HAND

POUCE
THUMB
PULGAR

INDEX
FORE FINGER
INDICE

MEDIUS
MIDDLE FINGER
MEDIO

ANNULAIRE
RING FINGER
ANULAR

AURICULAIRE
LITTLE FINGER
AURICULAR

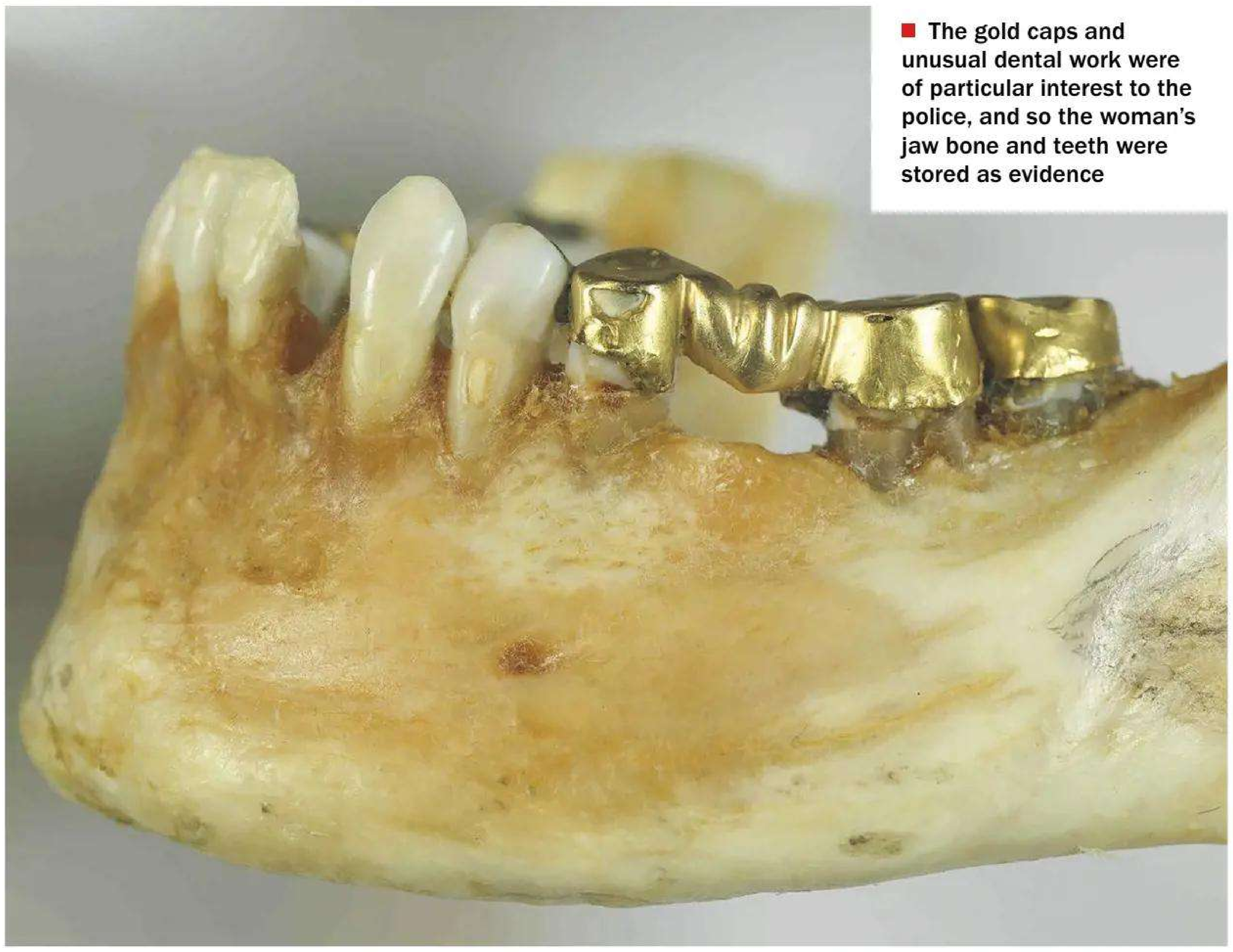
MAIN GAUCHE

MANO IZQUIERDA
LEFT HAND

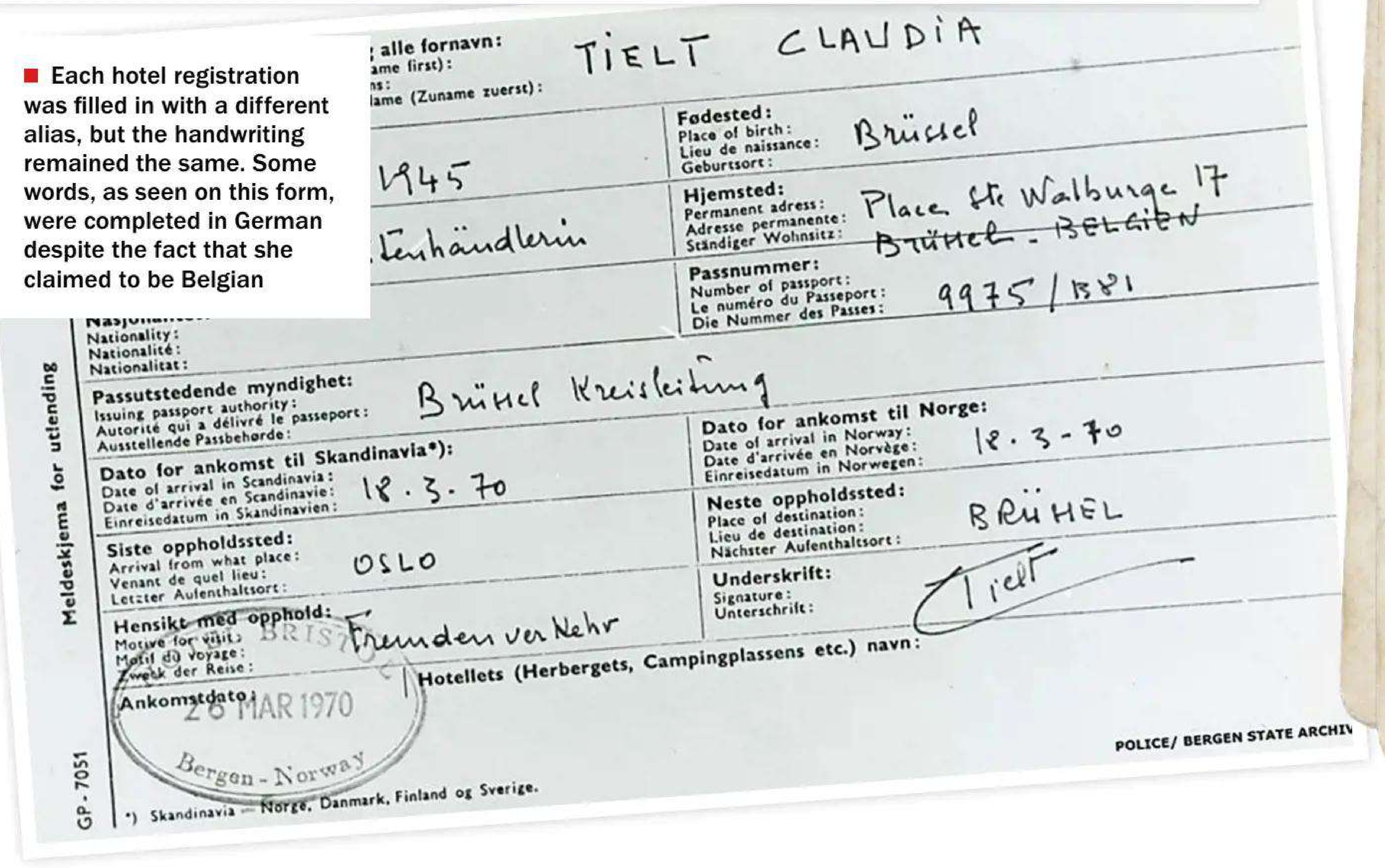
REASON FOR THIS CIRCULATION :

Issued at the request of the NORWEGIAN authorities for identification and information. Should this body be identified or should any information enabling it to be identified be available,

■ Fingerprints taken from the body of Isdal Woman were matched with partial prints found inside the suitcase left at the station



■ The gold caps and unusual dental work were of particular interest to the police, and so the woman's jaw bone and teeth were stored as evidence



alle fornavn:
ame first):
ame (Zuname zuerst): TIELT CLAUDIA

1945

Fødested:
Place of birth:
Lieu de naissance:
Geburtsort: Brüssel

Hjemsted:
Permanent adress:
Adresse permanente:
Ständiger Wohnsitz: Place Ste Walburge 17 Brühel - BELGIEN

lenhändlerin

Passnummer:
Number of passport:
Le numéro du Passeport:
Die Nummer des Passes: 9975/1381

Nationality:
Nationalité:
Nationalitat:

Passutstedende myndighet:
Issuing passport authority:
Autorité qui a délivré le passeport:
Ausstellende Passbehørde: Brühel Kreisleitung

Dato for ankomst til Norge:
Date of arrival in Norway:
Date d'arrivée en Norvège:
Einreisedatum in Norwegen: 18.3-70

Dato for ankomst til Skandinavia*):
Date of arrival in Scandinavia:
Date d'arrivée en Scandinavie:
Einreisedatum in Skandinavien: 18.3.70

Neste oppholdssted:
Place of destination:
Lieu de destination:
Nächster Aufenthaltsort: BRÜHEL

Siste oppholdssted:
Arrival from what place:
Venant de quel lieu:
Letzter Aufenthaltsort: OSLO

Underskrift:
Signature:
Unterschrift: Tielt

Hensikt med opphold:
Motive for visit:
Motif du voyage:
Zweck der Reise: Fremdenverkehr

BRISTOL

Hotellets (Herbergets, Campingplassens etc.) navn:

Ankomstdato: 26 MAR 1970

Bergen - Norway

Meldeskjema for utlending

GP. 7051

*) Skandinavia — Norge, Danmark, Finland og Sverige.

POLICE/ BERGEN STATE ARCHIV

■ Each hotel registration was filled in with a different alias, but the handwriting remained the same. Some words, as seen on this form, were completed in German despite the fact that she claimed to be Belgian

Images, Alamy, Getty, Shutterstock, KRIPOS;
All illustrations by: Ed Crooks

THE AFTERMATH

ADVANCES IN FORENSIC SCIENCE TECHNIQUES HAVE INSTIGATED A REVIEW OF THE CASE

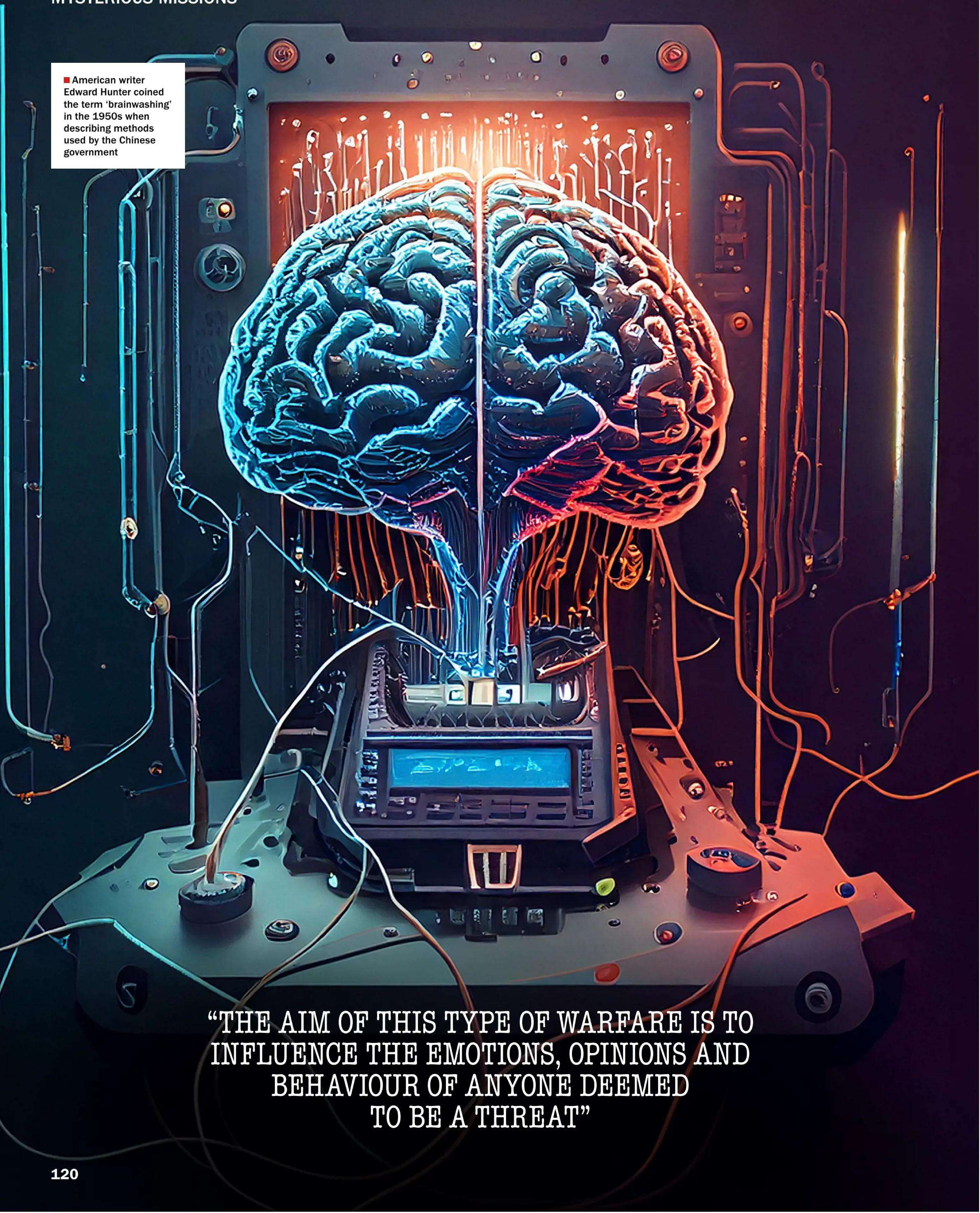
With the exception of an occasional documentary or newspaper article, the case of the Isdal Woman was relegated to a cold case file or conspiracy theorist's blog, but recently there has been a flurry of activity. In 2016, the Norwegian police re-opened the case having discovered that not all the evidence had been destroyed as previously thought. Investigators at the time had been intrigued by the woman's dental work, since there were a number of expensive gold teeth and the extensive work was unusual in Norway at that time. Consequently, the jaw bone and teeth had been preserved. Since DNA analysis and forensic science in general has improved exponentially, a wealth of new and exciting potential evidence suddenly emerged.

The University of Bergen began conducting isotope analysis tests on the teeth in order to identify where Isdal Woman had spent her childhood. This could be achieved by studying the chemical signature left by the elements as a tooth is being formed. Oxygen isotope analysis, for example, could show what type of water she drank as a young child and also where that water originated from. The variety of foods she ate could be revealed by undertaking Strontium isotope analysis. This could even tell the type of soil that was prevalent in the area that she grew up in.

Meanwhile, Haukeland University Hospital came forward with tissue samples taken from the unknown woman's ovaries, heart, lungs and adrenal glands so that extensive DNA testing could take place. The results showed that she spent her early childhood near the France/German border and, by the time she had reached her teenage years, she had moved to Western Europe.

Further tests were carried out in 2017 and revealed that she was not in her late 20s to early 30s but was in fact about 40 years of age when she died. Investigators are now of the opinion that she was probably born in or close to Nuremberg and was most likely one of the displaced children moved to France at the start of World War II. Many of these infants were separated from their parents and some ended up in the Lorraine region, which borders Germany, Luxembourg and, most importantly, Belgium. This would make sense, as the Isdal Woman consistently claimed to be Belgian while actually writing in German.

If she was a secret agent, it would appear that her cover had been blown after the encounter with a naval officer was witnessed by Berthon Rott, the fisherman. The question is, did she panic and take her own life in the Isdalen Valley or did someone else silence her? She may have attempted to commit suicide with an overdose of sleeping pills and accidentally set fire to herself while in a groggy state. Alternatively, she may have been drugged in order to make her more compliant and then brutally tortured as a warning to other careless spies. The chances are that after all this time, with some many witnesses now deceased, we will never know for certain.



American writer Edward Hunter coined the term 'brainwashing' in the 1950s when describing methods used by the Chinese government

> "THE AIM OF THIS TYPE OF WARFARE IS TO INFLUENCE THE EMOTIONS, OPINIONS AND BEHAVIOUR OF ANYONE DEEMED TO BE A THREAT"

THESE THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR OWN

Terrified that the Soviets might unlock the hidden powers of the mind, the US government began a series of bizarre experiments in a bid to master the supernatural

WORDS **BEE GINGER**

The concept of creating a tireless warrior capable of waging superhuman warfare has its roots in the drug-addled experiments of the Nazis during WWII, tests that were often cruel and fundamentally failed in moulding the 'super soldier' that a desperate Third Reich longed for. However, the inability of Hitler's cronies to achieve this terrifying aim did little to deter future efforts, especially across the Atlantic, where an America locked in a seemingly endless Cold War with the Soviet Union went to extraordinary lengths to master the supernatural in its campaign against communism.

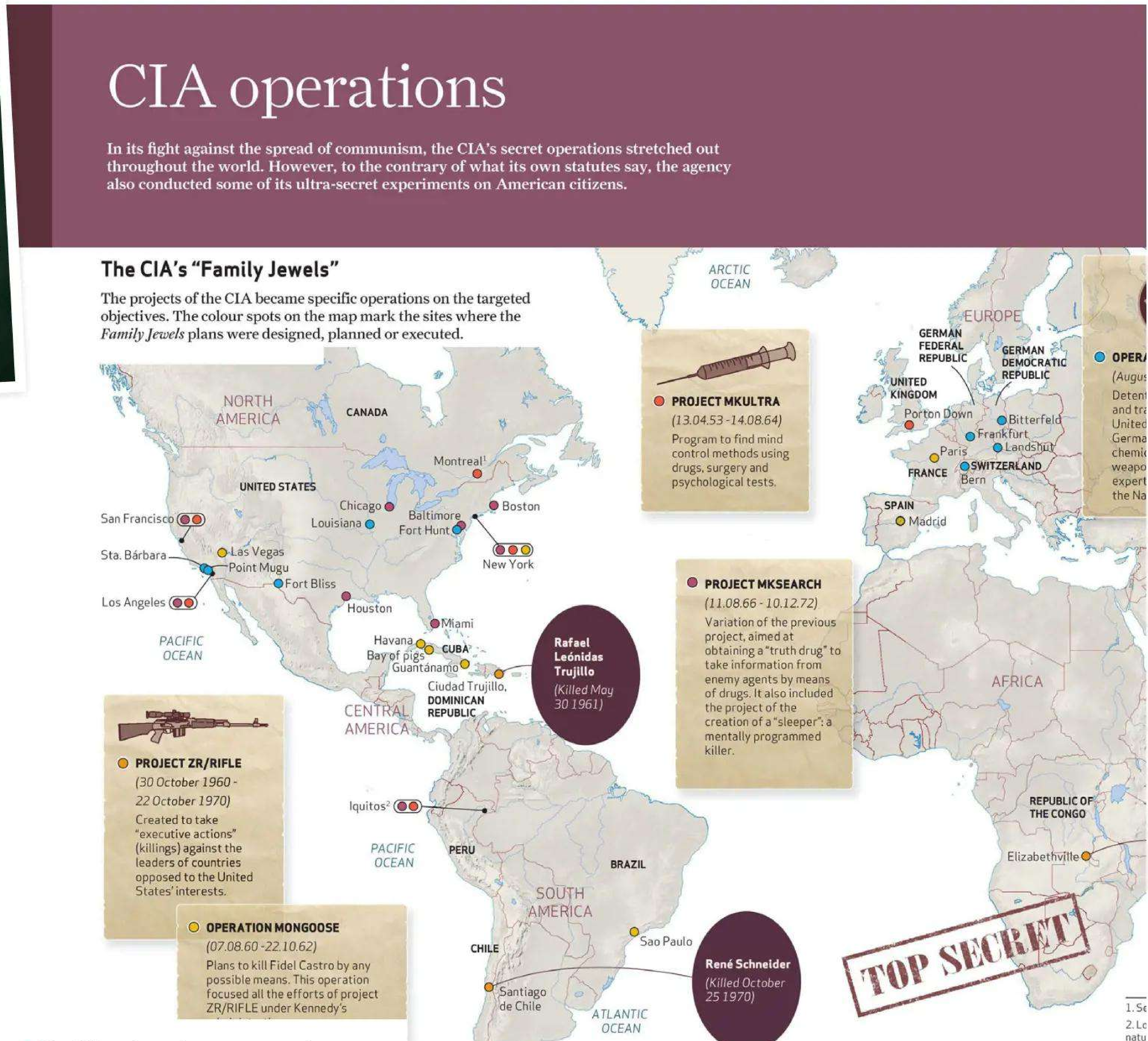
We have ways of making you talk

'Psychological warfare' is a term believed to have migrated to the United States from Nazi Germany during WWII. The aim of this type of warfare is to influence the emotions, opinions and behaviour of anyone deemed to be a threat to a nation's security and its ambitions – a form of brainwashing to be exact. The CIA's mind-control projects were essentially a continuation of the work that originated in both Nazi and Japanese concentration camps during the war, in some sense literally, as the CIA hired torturers and vivisectionists who had previously worked in these camps and based their own programme around experiments conducted by these former enemies. Some of the ex-Nazi scientists had worked on research pertaining to aerosol technologies, an exploration into how best to spray toxins or germs onto opponents. This included 'truth serum', the term referring to the various drugs used to try and extract honest and truthful statements from a person. During ancient times this substance would have been wine, but by the time WWII was raging barbiturates like sodium pentothal, sodium amytal and scopolamine were used. Under the influence of these drugs a person would be unable to lie as the brain's power of reasoning would temporarily be damaged. Similar substances were also studied and administered – all for the use of psychiatric purposes. Under the influence of these drugs a person's heart rate would begin to decrease, causing relaxation and a release from anxiety and tension. In this heightened state a person would begin to talk calmly of their knowledge or experiences when asked about a certain subject.

For their part the Nazis favoured the use of mescaline as a truth-inducing drug, while the CIA began to look into the benefits of cannabis and LSD. But it was the KGB, the Soviet intelligence agency, that was rumoured to have found the most effective drug for getting to the truth, a substance that they codenamed SP-17. Not only was it incredibly effective at eliciting information by loosening tongues but it had no taste or scent

LSD
$C_{20}H_{25}N_3O$
CH_3
N
CH_3
H
H
HN
N
CH_3
O

This formula depicts the chemical structure of LSD



CIA operations

In its fight against the spread of communism, the CIA's secret operations stretched out throughout the world. However, to the contrary of what its own statutes say, the agency also conducted some of its ultra-secret experiments on American citizens.

The CIA's "Family Jewels"

The projects of the CIA became specific operations on the targeted objectives. The colour spots on the map mark the sites where the *Family Jewels* plans were designed, planned or executed.

PROJECT MKULTRA
(13.04.53 -14.08.64)
Program to find mind control methods using drugs, surgery and psychological tests.

PROJECT MKSEARCH
(11.08.66 - 10.12.72)
Variation of the previous project, aimed at obtaining a "truth drug" to take information from enemy agents by means of drugs. It also included the project of the creation of a "sleeper": a mentally programmed killer.

PROJECT ZR/RIFLE
(30 October 1960 - 22 October 1970)
Created to take "executive actions" (killings) against the leaders of countries opposed to the United States' interests.

OPERATION MONGOOSE
(07.08.60 -22.10.62)
Plans to kill Fidel Castro by any possible means. This operation focused all the efforts of project ZR/RIFLE under Kennedy's

Rafael Leónidas Trujillo
(Killed May 30 1961)

René Schneider
(Killed October 25 1970)

ARCTIC OCEAN
NORTH AMERICA
CANADA
UNITED STATES
San Francisco
Sta. Bárbara
Las Vegas
Point Mugu
Los Angeles
Fort Bliss
Louisiana
Chicago
Montreal¹
Boston
Baltimore
Fort Hunt
New York
Houston
Miami
Havana
Bay of pigs
CUBA
Guantánamo
Ciudad Trujillo, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
CENTRAL AMERICA
PACIFIC OCEAN
Iquitos²
PACIFIC OCEAN
PERU
BRAZIL
SOUTH AMERICA
CHILE
Santiago de Chile
Sao Paulo
ATLANTIC OCEAN
EUROPE
GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
UNITED KINGDOM
Porton Down
Bitterfeld
Frankfurt
Landshut
Paris
FRANCE
SWITZERLAND
Bern
SPAIN
Madrid
AFRICA
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
Elizabethville
TOP SECRET

The CIA undertook secret operations across the world from the 1940s to 1970s in its relentless war on communism

when added to a beverage, and as a bonus it would erase the target's memories of the interrogation. All very James Bond!

Whisperings of this wonder drug triggered the CIA to conduct its own secret tests and up the ante in the search for something that would enable them to control minds and gain an edge. This led them to forming a programme that until 1977 remained a closely guarded secret.

MKUltra

Approved in 1953 by the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Allen Dulles, the project, named MKUltra ran for two decades. It was inspired by the United States government's assumption that the Soviets were becoming advanced in mind-control technology. Refusing to be left behind, they prepared to go to extreme lengths. What followed was a staggering example of a government abusing the rights of its citizens by gathering information about them without their permission or knowledge.

Conducted in complete secrecy, MKUltra was intended to study "the use of biological and chemical materials in altering human behaviour". Due to both legal and ethical questions surrounding the programme the CIA fought hard to keep any information under wraps; the last thing they wanted was any negative response from the public.

Overseen by a chemist named Sidney Gottlieb, who first introduced the agency to the hallucinogenic LSD, the project saw the CIA grant itself the authority to conduct research into how different drugs may affect the body in various situations. For example, would drugs enhance the intoxicating effects of alcohol? Could drugs produce confusion or amnesia? By contrast, could drugs in any way bolster a person's ability to withstand coercion, torture and privation? The answers to these questions, along with many others, were sought via a plethora of experiments. But where to find subjects? As Allen Dulles himself complained, there were insufficient "human guinea pigs to try these extraordinary techniques". The answer to this supply problem lay in targeting terminally ill patients, prisoners, drug addicts and sex workers – people who would not be missed in society, or as Gottlieb coldly put it, "people who could not fight back."

Gottlieb and his deputy Robert Lashbrook were both experts in the field of poison and medical experiments. Their interrogation projects tormented and permanently shattered the minds of hundreds of people as they ruthlessly pushed the boundaries. Just how much LSD could be given to these 'expendable' guinea pigs before they reached breaking point? Could an enormous dose in fact blast away a person's consciousness for good, leaving a fresh canvas on which to impress a new personality and impulses? Such was Gottlieb's obsession that at one point he bought the entire world's supply of LSD at a cost of $240,000. On its arrival in the United States it was distributed around clinics, prisons, hospitals, various institutions and through bogus foundations, and administered under the guise of research. The project later expanded abroad, with MKDELTA established to govern the use of the programme's materials overseas. Ultimately, with over $25 million spent on the project and its offshoots, MKUltra proved to be a pricey foray that resulted in an even higher human cost.

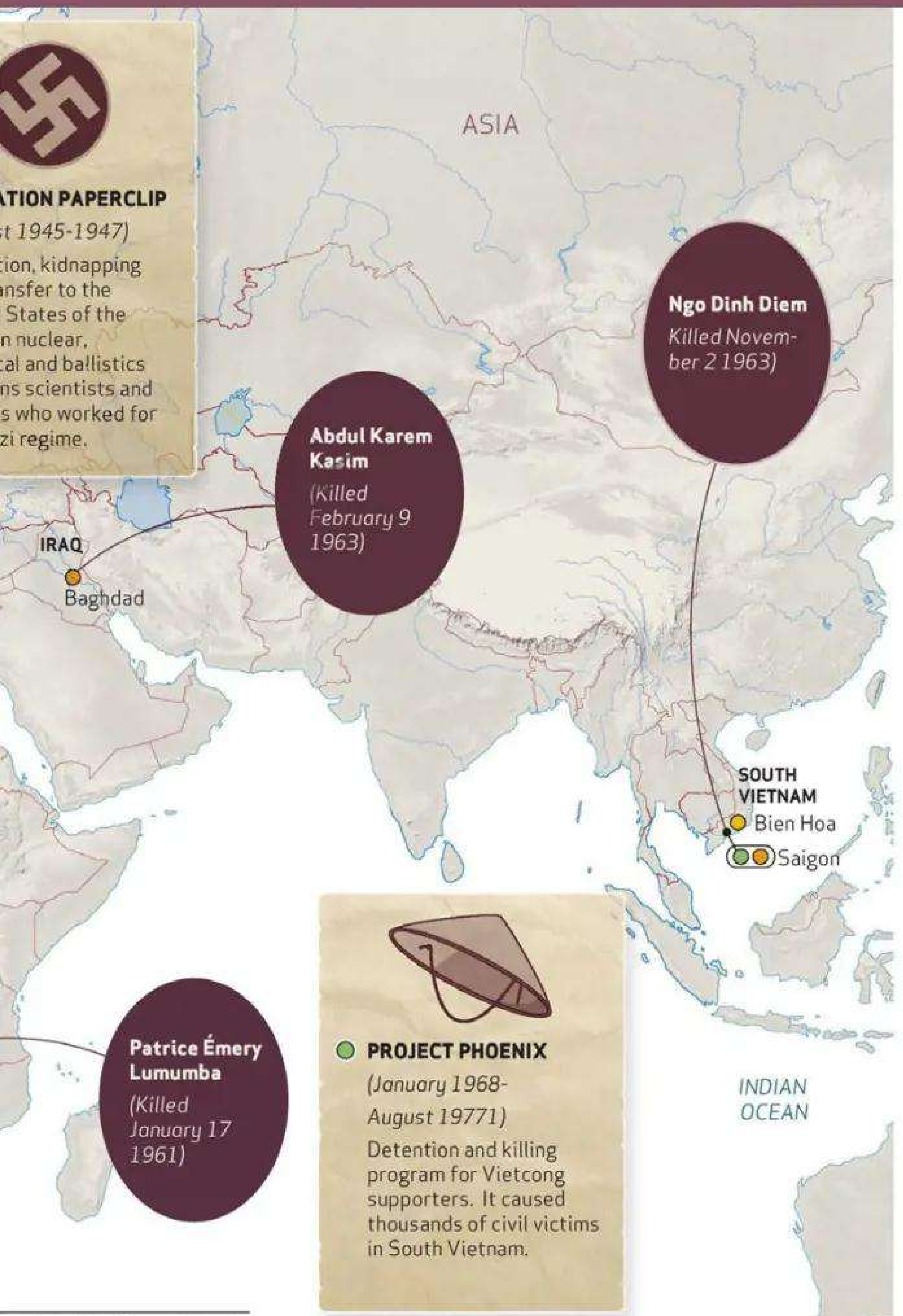
> "ONE OF THE MOST COMMON AREAS OF RESEARCH WAS INTO BRAIN-ALTERING CHEMICALS AND DRUGS"

A Senate hearing concluded in 1975–76 that "the research and development program, and particularly the covert testing programs, resulted in massive abridgements of the rights of American citizens, sometimes with tragic consequences." It is thought that many of the test subjects would have continued to suffer the residual effects of experiments for the rest of their lives, and at least two people perished, the only fatalities that were officially reported.

While one could perhaps argue that the controlled testing of a drug like LSD in the name of national security might be beneficial for the greater good, it was proven in the case of MKUltra that the drug was administered to unwitting individuals in dangerous quantities with a fundamental disregard for the person or their life. Shockingly this was one of 162 secret projects financed indirectly by the CIA, many of which were contracted out and the testing done at research institutions including universities.

Did the CIA ever use animals as spies?

The report of the project MKULTRA devised by doctor Sidney Gottlieb reveals how the CIA operated a cat to turn it into a living "scout". Its agents opened the animal and placed wires and batteries inside it. They managed to keep the animal at the surveillance site through hunger. When the animal was finally ready for the action... it crossed the street and was knocked down and killed by a truck. The cost of the cat's surgery and the material wasted amounted 15,000 dollars of that time.



at of the Allan Memorial Institute.

cation of the Amazon Natural Drug Company, a CIA organization in charge of gathering
ral products with psychoactive substances in the Amazon rainforest.

Many of these establishments, however, had no knowledge that they were in fact dealing with the long arm of the CIA.

In 1977 many of the programme's financial records unexpectedly came to light despite a purge four years earlier that had destroyed countless documents. Further investigations soon brought about a fresh round of inquiries into MKUltra. Public fury led to two lawsuits, but to date nobody has been held accountable or made to answer for the unethical testing under the umbrella of MKUltra. The Supreme Court of America continued to protect the CIA and government over the rights of the American people, which many will argue continues to be the case today. Stephen Kinzer, a journalist who devoted several years to investigating MKUltra, described the operation as "the most sustained search in history for techniques of mind control".

Although it will have been little consolation to those who were tested on against their will, CIA files do suggest that there was some success in the programme. When describing the purpose of one of the sub programmes, Richard Helms wrote on an internal CIA memo, "We intend to investigate the development of a chemical material which causes a reversible, nontoxic aberrant mental state, the specific nature of which can be reasonably well predicted for each individual. This material could potentially aid in discrediting individuals, eliciting information, and implanting suggestions and other forms of mental control."

However, further findings into the results and countless reams of documentation since released by the CIA concluded that many results were doctored. Or was this another cover- up – a false admission of failure and deceit to hide a more sinister truth?

Project Star Gate

Drugs, while comprising a key part of these illegal research projects, were not the only method favoured by experimenters: many also looked into the benefits of parapsychology. This is the examination of physical phenomena and psychokinesis as well as cognitive phenomena known as extrasensory perception (ESP).

ESP is often referred to as a 'sixth sense', an awareness of information not received by any of the other five senses but instead detected by the mind. It is most commonly associated with psychometry, precognition, telepathy and clairvoyance. This discipline is often criticised as it cannot be accounted for by natural law, and many of its practitioners have been discredited due to a lack of evidence of the existence of psychic phenomena. Yet this hasn't prevented many scientists from devoting their careers to parapsychology and the investigation into the existence of ESP. Between 1972 and 1995 the Defence Intelligence Agency and the CIA spent an incredible $20 million researching as part of a scheme named 'Project Star Gate'.

Although it may sound like the title of a sci-fi movie, Project Star Gate was actually a mission developed by the CIA in 1978 designed to explore and expand psychic abilities. This was the first project of its kind, the idea behind it being to harness the supernatural using new and innovative methods, the likes of which had never been deployed before.

As with many government projects, the end aim was to find supernatural powers that could be put to military use, including spying. Cost effective and with "no known defence" to stop it, psychic spying, if it was possible, would hand the US a devastating advantage over her enemies, enabling US espionage in the form of monitoring people from afar and interfering in their efforts without risk of detection.

One mental process was 'psychoenergetics', which involves a person perceiving and even changing the characteristics of someone who is separate from them either in time or space. It is similar in many ways to telekinesis, whereby someone can move an object with their mind, like Matilda in the Roald Dahl book. Top-secret research took place at the Stanford Research Institute in Menlo Park, California, and such was the government's determination to leave no stone (or should that be mind) unturned, proclaimed psychic Uri Geller was recruited, not for his skills at bending metal cutlery but instead for his professed ability at both reading and controlling minds. Another technique that was examined was remote viewing, when a person can see things happening in another location (see the next page for more on this).

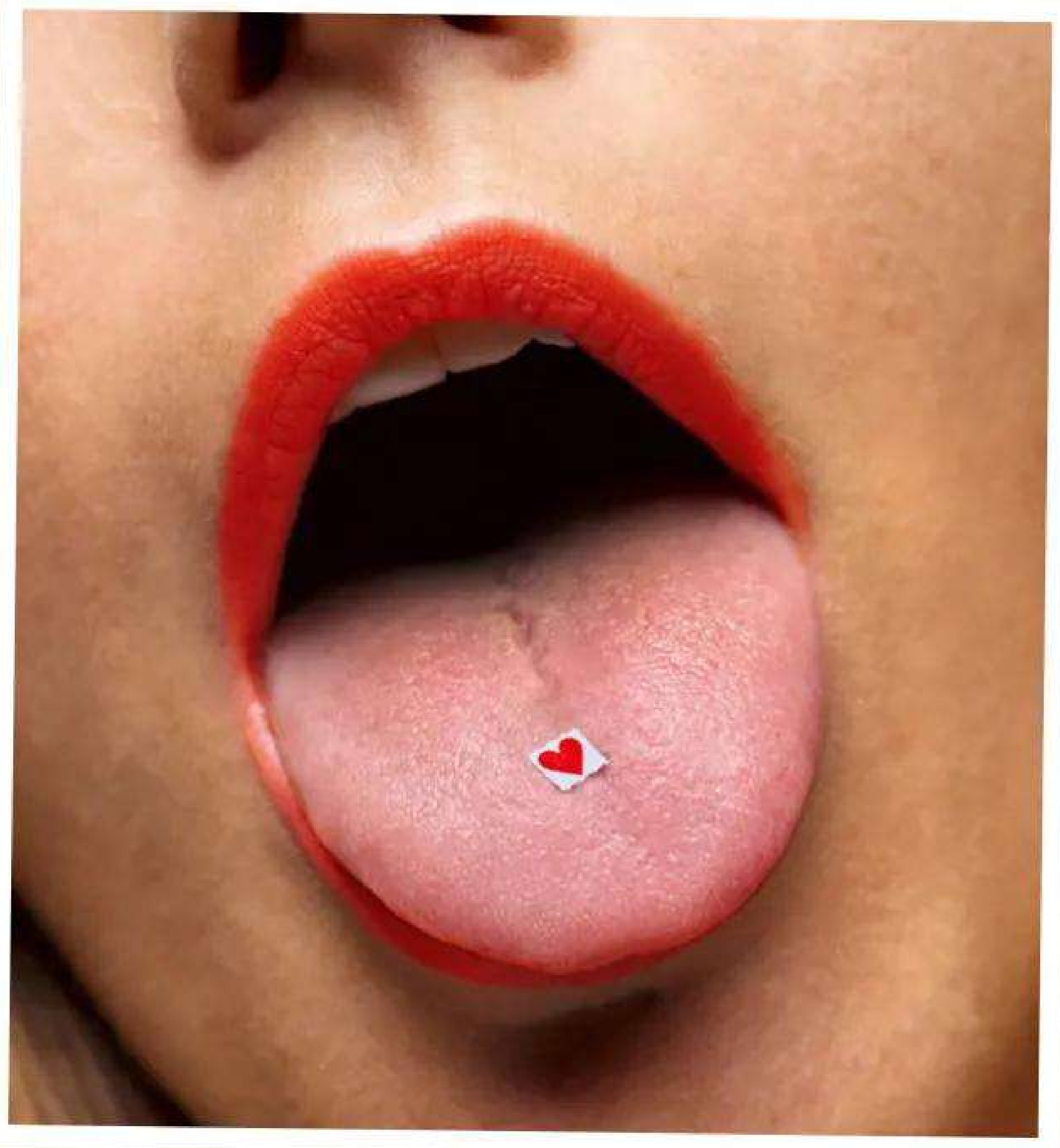
Much has been written by those involved in these special projects, including its unwitting subjects. Notorious mobster James Whitey Bulger was one of those experimented on. Thinking he was taking part in an experiment aimed at finding a cure for schizophrenia, he was administered LSD on a daily basis for more than a year. In letters he wrote while in prison he detailed the horrific effects of the drugs. Upon learning of the MKUltra programme he wrote, "I was in prison for committing a crime, but they committed a greater crime on me."

TRIPPING OUT – THE BRAIN ON LSD

LSD (or lysergic acid diethylamide to give it its full name) is a powerful psychedelic drug that, in a sufficiently high dosage, literally trips the switches in the human brain to cause hallucinations. Created using a substance extracted from the ergot fungus, LSD hones in on one of the brain's 14 serotonin receptors, 5-HT2A. In normal circumstances serotonin (among many other roles) is thought to prevent the distortion of our perception of the world around us, but when LSD is consumed it impacts serotonin regulation, therefore warping a person's sense of their surroundings and leading them to perceive things that aren't really there. One patient given the drug during MI6 trials in the 1950s later recalled watching walls melting and people's faces cracking.

Other symptoms caused by LSD range from dilated pupils and increased blood pressure to paranoia, synesthesia-like effects such as feeling sounds and hearing colours, and even 'mystical experiences' in which people lose all sense of time and space and can be overwhelmed by a sense of awe.

While LSD is not addictive and its effects tend to wear off within 24 hours it was classified as an illegal substance in the US in the wake of the MKUltra experiments and is considered a Class A drug in the UK, with a seven-year sentence for possession and potentially a life sentence for supplying it.



■ Among many symptoms, LSD can cause 'ego dissolution', whereby the user loses all sense of their self

Janet Uhlar, one of the jurors who voted to convict Bulger for murder during his trial in 2013 (at which he faced several charges including racketeering and extortion) has since revealed her regret at doing so. "Had I known, I would have absolutely held off on the murder charges. He didn't murder prior to the LSD. His brain may have been altered, so how could you say he was really guilty?"

Goats, gongs and ginseng

Unsurprisingly, MKUltra and the mysteries surrounding it became fertile ground for writers, including journalist Jon Ronson, who in 2004 penned the brilliantly titled *The Men Who Stare at Goats.* A close look into the possible military use of the paranormal and New Age concepts, its unique title refers to attempts made at killing goats by staring at them with the intent to stop their hearts. The 2009 movie starring George Clooney is based on Ronson's work.

In the book Ronson tells the remarkable story of Lieutenant Colonel Jim Channon, a US soldier who, after having served his country in Vietnam, proposed the idea of a new army composed of supersoldiers. Channon wanted his army to be a little more New Age, and having previously spent time in the 1970s with the group responsible for starting the Human Potential Movement, he felt best placed to write an operations manual for his new force. It was to be called First Earth Battalion and Channon went to great lengths planning every aspect of his army, which he detailed in a manual spanning 125 pages filled with polemical essays, graphs, maps and drawings.

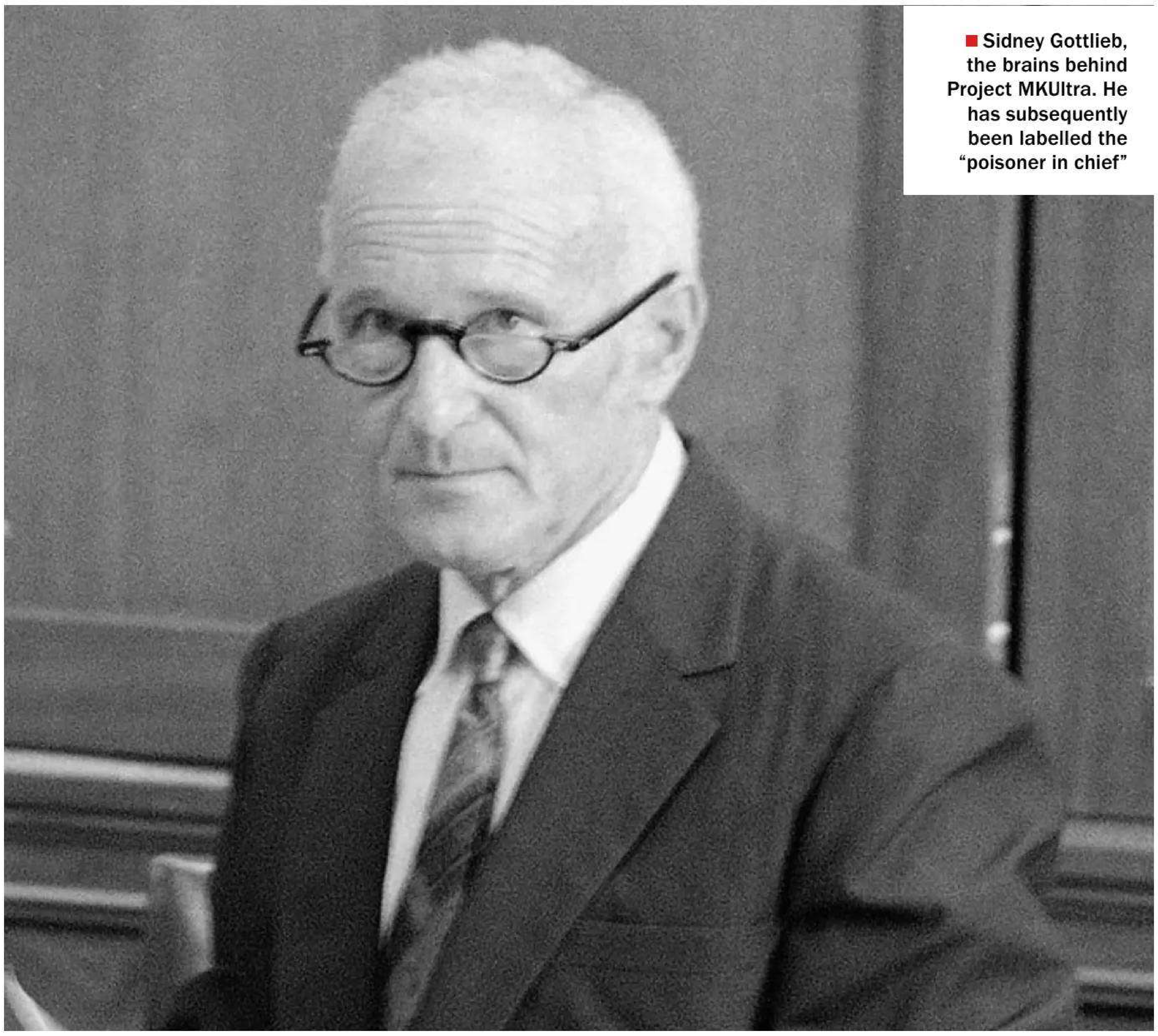
The men would need to consume foods to enhance their night vision, the uniform would have pouches for ginseng regulators, words of peace and Indigenous music would play from loudspeakers around the compound, and each soldier would be issued with divining tools such as pendulums and crystals. Members were to be called 'warrior monks' and their loyalty was to be principally towards the planet rather than any nation state, therefore any forms of conflict should be resolved in a nondestructive fashion.

Rainbow power was something Channon envisioned for his army, with multicultural members all powered by unity and diversity, structure without status and uniforms without uniformity. Sadly Channon's unique vision never came to fruition.

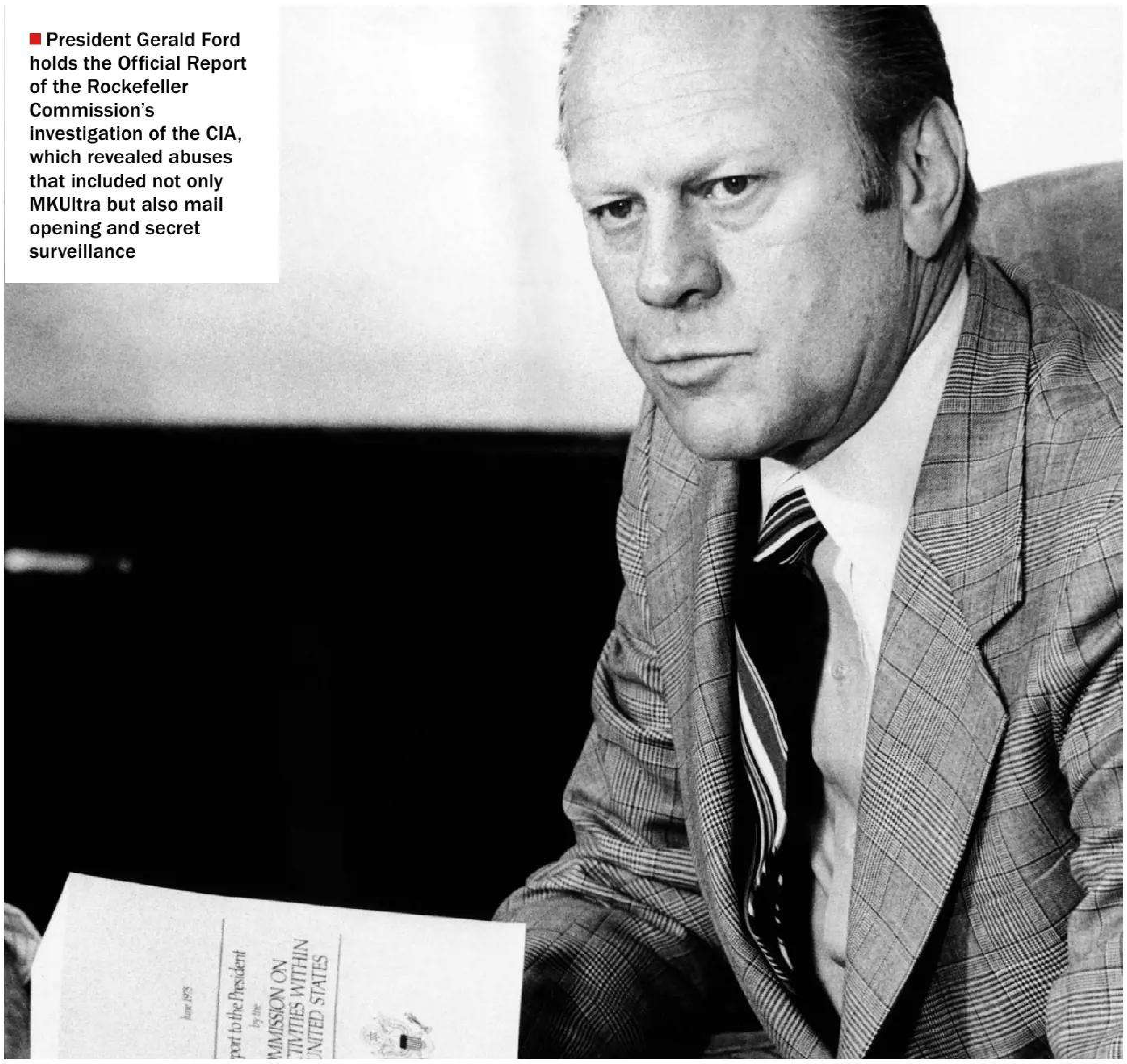
Twisted minds

This period in the CIA's colourful history has certainly been the inspiration for many films, aside from the one based on Ronson's work, which was accompanied by a three-part TV series titled *Crazy Rulers of the World*. After all, who doesn't like a science-fiction movie or a sinister thriller? But what happens when you discover that the truth really is stranger – and in this case scarier – than fiction? Of the many projects exposed to date, MKUltra's Subproject 68 is truly one of the most heinous.

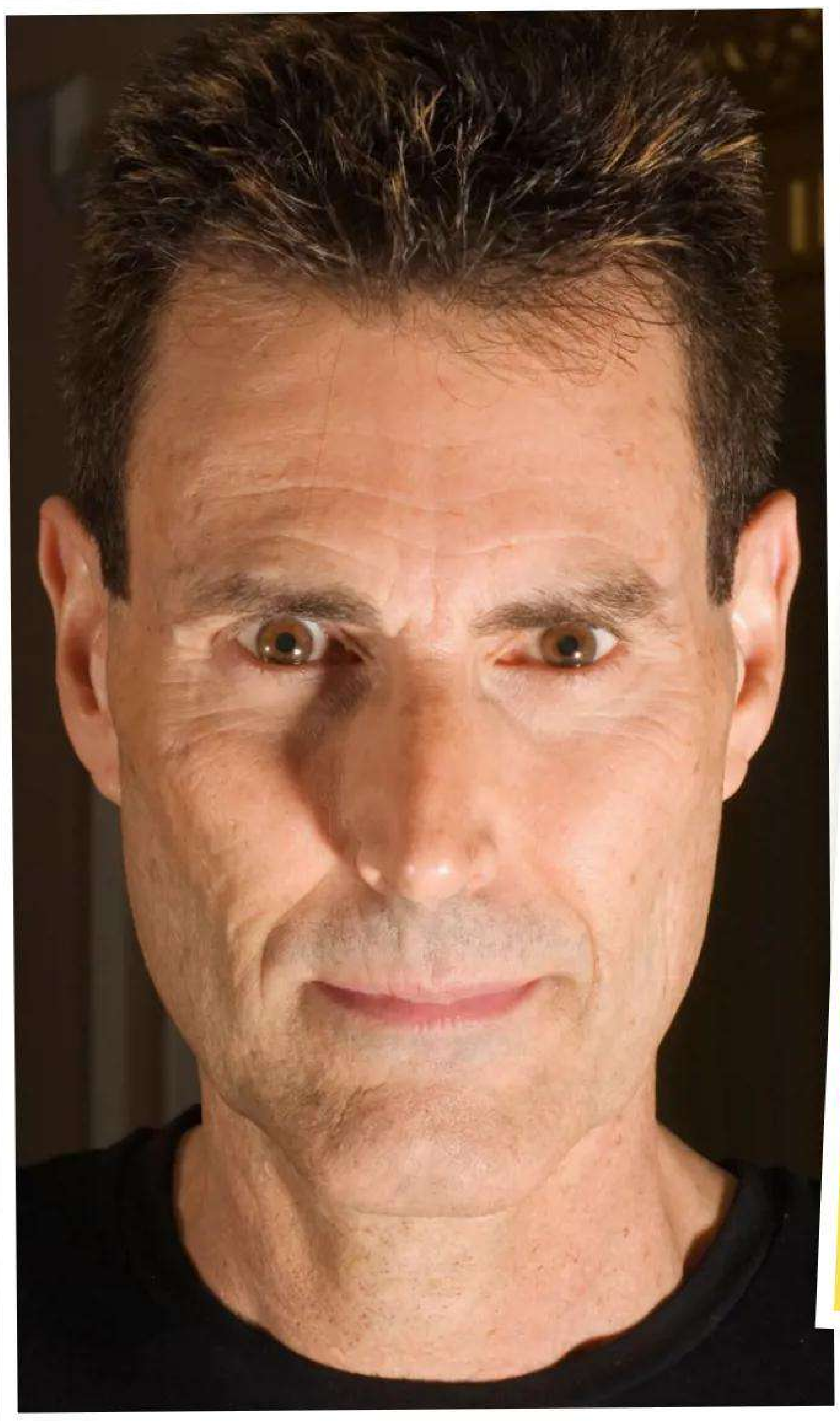
Funded in the late 1950s, it was headed up by Donald Ewen Cameron of the Allan Memorial Institute in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. He designed his experiments with the intent to "depattern" his subjects and reduce their mental age to that of a child by erasing their



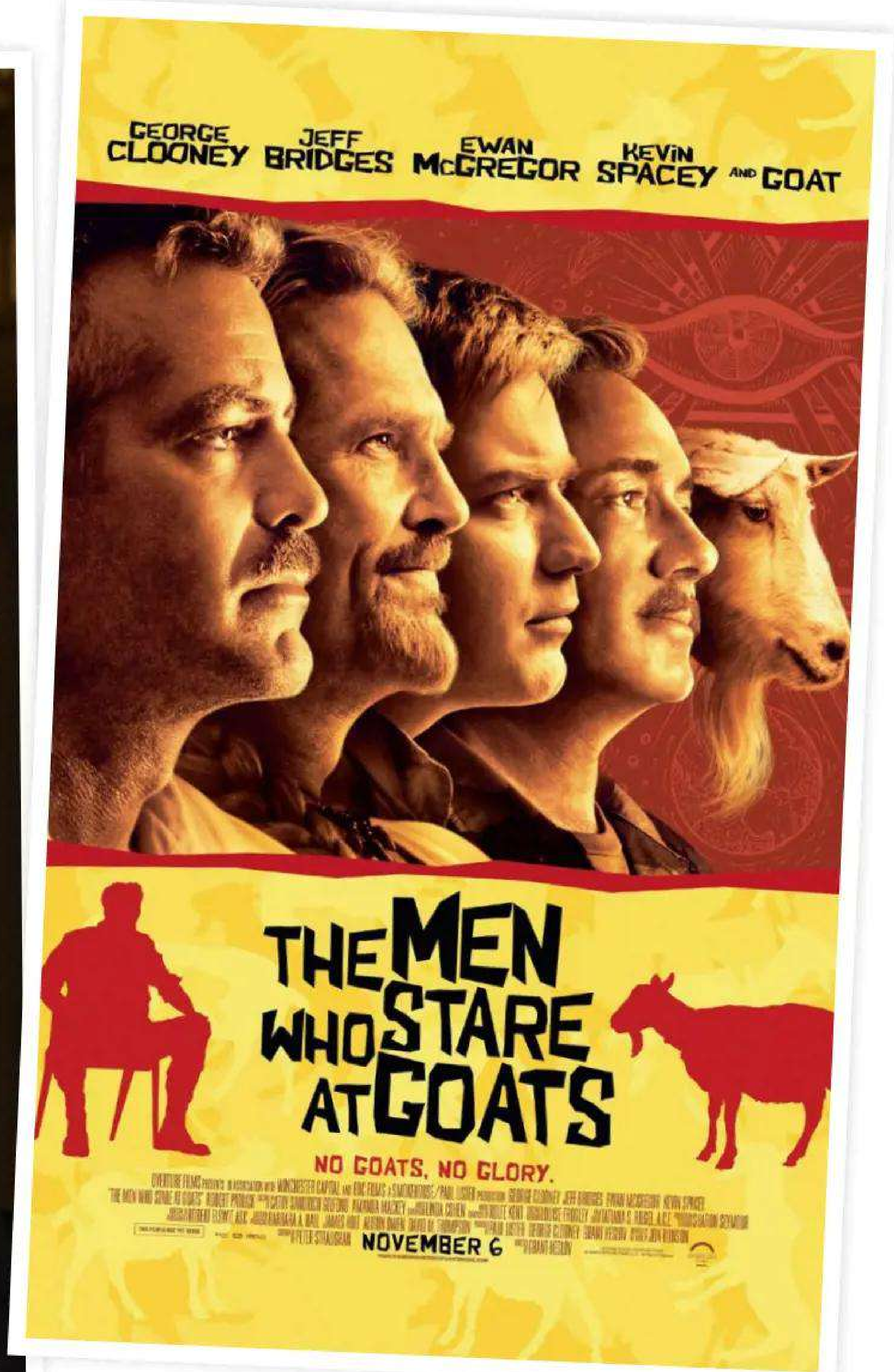
■ Sidney Gottlieb, the brains behind Project MKUltra. He has subsequently been labelled the "poisoner in chief"



■ President Gerald Ford holds the Official Report of the Rockefeller Commission's investigation of the CIA, which revealed abuses that included not only MKUltra but also mail opening and secret surveillance



Israeli illusionist, magician and self-proclaimed psychic Uri Geller worked on Project Star Gate



A poster promoting the 2009 film *The Men Who Stare at Goats*, which is based on Jon Ronson's investigations into claims US military personnel were able to kill goats simply by looking at them

minds and subsequently their memories and then "reprogramming" their thoughts and personalities in a way he saw fit. In order to achieve this he would place individuals into drug-induced comas for 88 days, which already sounds like the plot of a horror movie. He would then administer high-voltage shocks over the course of weeks or months (many patients received as many as 360 shocks over the course of their "care"). This was followed up by "psychic driving", where repetitive statements would be played through speakers that had been placed in blacked-out football helmets that Cameron would bind to his patients' heads. These messages would be played for weeks on end, often for as many as 20 hours a day. Cameron even forced one poor soul to listen to a message for 101 days non-stop. Horse stables on the plot had been converted into a sensory deprivation and isolation chamber, and many patients were locked away here for weeks on end in the hope they'd lose touch with reality entirely, and given dangerously large insulin injections daily to keep them in a coma-like state. It really was the stuff of nightmares.

Operation Midnight Climax was another study carried out to gauge the effects of LSD and hallucinogens on non-consenting adults. The CIA had numerous prostitutes on their payroll and these women were tasked with luring clients to safehouses where agents watched them from behind one-way glass. Here they were plied with substances including LSD, and once the sex was over their 'hostesses' would begin asking probing questions aimed at convincing them to reveal secrets. Subliminal messages were also used in the hope of gaining involuntary information and confessions. Senate investigators were later told that the aim of these experiments was to study sexual behaviour when combined with mind control, but given that numerous CIA operatives indulged in both the prostitutes and drugs, how much they gleaned is questionable.

It all adds up to its own dark and disturbing LSD trip, one that casts a long and shameful shadow on the history of the CIA. It's enough to make you wonder whether if what you have been reading is real, or is it all a government-controlled psychedelic dream?

> "RAINBOW POWER WAS SOMETHING CHANNON ENVISIONED FOR HIS ARMY, WITH MULTICULTURAL MEMBERS ALL POWERED BY UNITY AND DIVERSITY"

Images: Alamy, Getty, Shutterstock, Adobe Firefly

I SEE RED PEOPLE – SPYING ON THE SOVIETS

Spurred on by the fear of the Soviet Union secretly mastering ESP during the Cold War, the US wasted little time and plenty of money in trying to unlock the secrets of a 'sixth sense' in the struggle for global supremacy. Ultimately the project was written off as an expensive failure and shut down, but that isn't to say that it didn't enjoy some small victories along the way.

Joseph McMoneagle, a retired member of the US Army, played a role in no less than 450 different missions in the late 70s and early 80s. Along with helping the authorities to find captives being held in Iran, McMoneagle, who was called 'Remote Viewer No.1' in Project Star Gate files, was also able to expose the real purpose of a supposed calculator belonging to a KGB spy arrested in South Africa – it was in fact secreting a shortwave radio.

McMoneagle also claimed to have spied on the Red Brigades (a Communist terrorist organisation located in Italy) and to have pinpointed the exact location of the Soviet Union's 'Typhoon' submarines. However, he didn't get everything right. Aside from asserting that humans evolved from otter-like creatures that were made in a laboratory, McMoneagle stated that between 2002 and 2006 society would make moves towards abolishing TV, discover a love for tattoos that could replace clothes and find a cure for AIDS. Still, perhaps he just got his dates wrong.

Joseph McMoneagle claimed to have pinpointed the location of Soviet submarines using his proclaimed psychic powers

DEADLY SPY GAMES

Alexander Litvinenko was killed in November 2006, but did the former spy actually solve his own murder?

As he lay critically ill in an intensive care unit at University College Hospital in central London, the defiant words of Alexander Litvinenko were as caustic against those he felt were behind his poisoning as the chemicals ravaging his body: "You may succeed in silencing me but that silence comes at a price. You have shown yourself to be as barbaric and ruthless as your most hostile critics have claimed. You have shown yourself to have no respect of life, liberty or any civilised value. You have shown yourself unworthy of your office, to be unworthy of the trust of civilised men and women. You may succeed in silencing one man but the howl of protest from around the world will reverberate, Mr Putin, in your ears for the rest of your life. May God forgive you for what you have done, not only to me, but to beloved Russia and its people."

Did Russian president Vladimir Putin authorise the assassination of Alexander Litvinenko?

Litvinenko died on 23 November 2006, 22 days after being taken ill following a meeting with a business associate at the Millennium Hotel overlooking Grosvenor Square in London's Mayfair. What the perpetrators of the crime perhaps didn't bank on though was that Litvinenko would use his extensive espionage skills to finger his own killers.

Exposing the truth

Litvinenko had been a lieutenant colonel with the Federal Security Service (FSB), which was the successor to the Russian KGB and run by Vladimir Putin. However, in 1998 he was arrested with charges of abusing his office after exposing corruption within the organisation and uncovering an alleged plot to assassinate the Russian tycoon Boris Berezovsky (who was later found dead at his Ascot, UK, home in March 2013). After nine months in a remand centre, Litvinenko was acquitted and then fled to the UK in 2000 with his wife, Marina, and young son, Anatoly, where he was granted asylum.

While living in in exile, Litvinenko then went on to write the book *Blowing Up Russia: Terror From Within*, in which he claimed that FSB agents had been responsible for the bombing of some apartment blocks in Moscow in 1999, causing fear and panic among the Russian people. The Russian government had always blamed Chechen separatists for the bombings, but in his book, Litvinenko claimed that the bombings were organised by the government as a pretext for the second Russian invasion of Chechnya, and to aid Putin's rise to power.

From 2003 onwards, Litvinenko worked as a spy (an expert on Russian organised crime) for MI6, investigating Spanish links to the Russian mafia. The mafia, Litvinenko discovered, had close ties with senior Russian politicians, and the roads of corruption apparently led straight to the president's office and dated back to the Nineties when Putin was operating within the gangster circles while acting as the aide to Anatoly Sobchak, the then mayor of St Petersburg. Over the years, Litvinenko continued to openly accuse Putin and his intelligence agency of further acts of terrorism; perhaps most notably of the assassination of the prominent Russian investigative reporter, and fellow opponent of Putin's regime, Anna Politkovskaya in October 2006. Although the Russian government publicly brushed aside Litvinenko's accusations, behind the scenes a plan was being hatched to silence him once and for all – and the telling blow was delivered by someone that he knew.

Friend and executioner

On the afternoon of Wednesday 1 November 2006, Litvinenko had a rather busy schedule. At 3.00pm he met with Italian investigator Mario Scaramella at the Itsu restaurant in Piccadilly. During this meeting, at which Litvinenko ate sushi, Scaramella apparently warned him that both of them were on a Kremlin hit list. A short time later, Litvinenko was to meet with Russian businessman Andrei Lugovoi at the Millennium Hotel in Mayfair. Litvinenko and Lugovoi were both members of Boris Berezovsky's entourage in the Nineties and in 2005 Lugovoi had got back in contact with Litvinenko to suggest that they work together on advising western firms who were looking to invest in Russia.

At the meeting, which took place in the hotel bar shortly after 4.00pm, Litvinenko declined to order a drink, but was offered the remainder of a pot of green tea that was already sitting on the table when he arrived. There was only about half a cup left in the pot and it was virtually cold, but Litvinenko swallowed three to four mouthfuls before the two men were joined at their table by Dmitry Kovtun – a fellow business associate of Lugovoi who, along with the two men, was an ex-KGB agent. The three men briefly discussed the arrangement of a further meeting scheduled for the following day, before they went their separate ways. What Litvinenko didn't know at the time was that the tea was laced with a toxic, radioactive chemical called polonium-210, and that the countdown on his life had started to tick.

Later that evening, as Litvinenko and his wife, Marina, were preparing to celebrate their anniversary (and recently becoming British citizens), 'Sasha' – as Marina referred to him – suddenly became very ill. "It started just like a simple sickness," she recalled, but in the days following, Litvinenko continued to suffer with vomiting and severe diarrhea, at one point being unable to even walk without assistance. Litvinenko was hospitalised for what doctors first thought was an intestinal problem, however, by the second week it was clear that something was seriously wrong. "Sasha started to feel very bad," Marina explained. "His skin became very yellow. It was so scary."

When Litvinenko struggled to open his mouth and his hair began to fall out in clumps, the doctors treating him began to realise that he had been poisoned, but had no idea what had actually poisoned him. All Scotland Yard could do was seal off his room to try and protect him – but the damage was already done, and the polonium-210 was eating Litvinenko away from the inside.

As Litvinenko lay slowly dying in hospital, he was able to give Scotland Yard detectives a detailed account of his movements, his associates and their behaviour on the day of his poisoning. And thanks to his accounts and the extensive CCTV footage from the Millennium Hotel, detectives were able to unravel a sprawling and highly dangerous polonium trail in and out of London, with faint traces found in restaurants, public transport and even Arsenal's Emirates Stadium, where Lugovoi had watched a Champions League match between the Gunners and CSKA Moscow immediately after the hotel meeting. Then, of course, there were high traces in the hotel itself – the bar, the toilets and especially Lugovoi's room, where the readings went off the scale as it appeared that the assassin had emptied the reminder of the vial down the bathroom sink. The evidence seemed highly conclusive against Lugovoi, although traces of polonium were also found at the sushi restaurant where Litvinenko had dined with Scaramella – could this have been from an earlier meeting with Lugovoi at a Grosvenor Street boardroom back in October? On that occasion, Litvinenko had declined a drink and his glass remained untouched, but perhaps he had ingested small amounts of the chemical some other way. After a two-month investigation, Scotland Yard detectives handed over a file to the then director of public prosecutions, Sir Ken Macdonald, who announced in May 2007 that he was recommending Lugovoi be charged with murder. Lugovoi, along with Kovtun, denied any responsibility for Litvinenko's death, deflecting blame to the British Secret Service on account of Litvinenko's spy status. An order to extradite Lugovoi from Russia to face murder charges in England was denied by Moscow on account of the Russian constitution preventing the extradition of its citizens, and to date no formal charges have been brought against him.

"THE DAMAGE WAS DONE. THE POLONIUM WAS EATING LITVINENKO AWAY FROM THE INSIDE"

Businessman and ex-KGB agent Andrei Lugovoi has denied any involvement with the murder

Litvinenko agreed to have photos taken on his deathbed to show the world how he been "poisoned by the Kremlin"

Although Litvinenko was unable to pinpoint exactly who had poisoned him, there was little doubt in his mind who was ultimately responsible, and from his hospital bed he smeared his blood on Putin's hands and allowed himself to be photographed on his deathbed in order to show the world that when you cross the Russian leader, there is ultimately only one outcome.

Images: © Wikimedia Commons, Kremlin Presidential Press and Information Office, REX, Shutterstock, © Corbis, Sergei Chirikov

FROM PUTIN WITH LOVE?

A police officer stands guard next to the public bench on which former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were found unconscious, allegedly poisoned by agents of the Kremlin

Former Russian spy Sergei Skripal probably thought he and his family were safe in sleepy Salisbury, UK, but the Kremlin's poisonous reach extends into all corners, and it is now widely believed that Russia's mysterious agents attempted to murder a man they view as a traitor.

Once an employee of Russia's secret service, Skripal became a British informant in the 1990s, supplying MI6 with sensitive information until his sudden arrest outside his home in Moscow in December 2004.

Skripal was charged in August 2006 under Article 275 of the Russian Criminal Code, which relates to high treason. He was sentenced to 13 years in a labour camp and stripped of both his military rank and decorations. He spent four years imprisoned before being released in July 2010 as part of a high-profile spy swap deal with the UK. Settling in the medieval city of Salisbury in Wiltshire, Skripal attempted to piece a new life together with his wife (who has since died), and regularly enjoyed visits from his sons (both of whom have since died in suspicious circumstances) and his daughter Yulia, with whom he was found unconscious on a bench in early March 2018.

Both Sergei and Yulia were in a critical condition, but later recovered. However, Salisbury man Charlie Rowley was hospitalised and his partner Dawn Sturgess died after coming into contact with a perfume bottle found in a charity shop donation bin, which was later found to contain the nerve agent Novichok, used to poison the Skripals. Two Russian agents remain suspects in the case.

CYBER SPIES EXPOSED

In July 2025 UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy revealed that during recent operations to expose Russian state-sponsored hackers, it was discovered that GRU agents had placed spyware on Yulia Skripal's devices in 2013, five years before the Salisbury poisonings. The Skripals had been long-term targets.

Images: Getty Images

SECRET SERVICES

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